

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Actress getting glances thanks to 'Sideways' role

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Virginia Madsen



Marine killed in Iraq hours after his first child is born

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Woods wins first title since February

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Tiger Woods

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3.5 percent raise OK'd for federal civilian employees

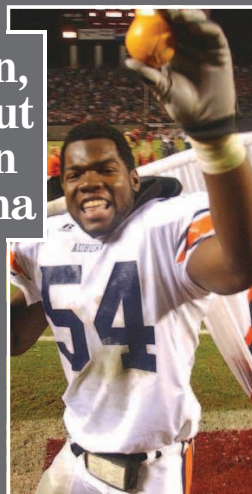
Congress more than doubles increase sought by Bush Page 9



Auburn, Utah put BCS in dilemma

Unbeaten teams eye slots in major bowls, perhaps title game

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Left: Utah quarterback Alex Smith wears a sombrero as he celebrates his team's win Saturday over BYU in Salt Lake City. The win is expected to send Utah to the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1, if the undefeated Utes become the first team from a nonmajor conference to secure a BCS spot. Right: Auburn's Quentin Groves celebrates with an orange Saturday after Auburn defeated Alabama 21-13 in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Even if Auburn wins the SEC championship and finishes unbeaten, it might be left out of the Orange Bowl.

LEFT: (SALT LAKE CITY) DESERET MORNING NEWS AP; RIGHT: TUSCALOOSA (ALA.) NEWS AP

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NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

World

Nepal violence: Maoist rebels and army soldiers clashed overnight in western Nepal, leaving 26 dead in the latest flare-up in the communist insurgency in the Himalayan kingdom, officials said Sunday.

Ten soldiers and 16 rebels were killed in the fighting, army officers at the site and at army headquarters in Katmandu, the national capital, said on the customary condition of anonymity.

The rebels have been fighting since February 1996 to replace Nepal's monarchy with a communist state. The insurgency has claimed more than 10,000 lives.

Iran's nuclear capabilities: Iran said nuclear missiles are not a part of its defense policies and that such weapons "could not be hidden in today's world," one day before it was to suspend nuclear enrichment activities as part of an agreement it reached with European countries.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said he had seen intelligence that confirmed claims by an Iranian opposition group that Iran was secretly running a program intended to produce nuclear weapons by next year.

Iran has denied U.S. accusations and says its sole interest is to generate nuclear fuel through low-level uranium enrichment.

Zimbabwe political candidates: Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe has said that he would like to see a woman in one of the country's two vice presidential posts, state radio reported Sunday.

Mugabe told the women's wing of his ruling Zanu-PF party that his 26-member politburo had decided that the country should have a female vice president. The position has been vacant since Simon Muzenda, one of two vice presidents, died in September 2003.

The front-runner to become the female vice president is Joyce Mujuru, wife of retired army commander Solomon Mujuru, said John Makumbe, a political analyst at the University of Zimbabwe.

Indonesian rebels: Indonesian troops shot and killed five alleged separatist rebels — four of whom were unarmed — in the oil- and gas-rich province of Aceh, a military spokesman said Sunday.

The men were killed in separate incidents Saturday across the province on the northern tip of Sumatra island, spokesman Mulya Anaswari said. Troops seized a pistol from one of the dead men, he said, giving no more details.

Rights groups say many of those killed by the military in Aceh are unarmed civilians who are suspected of supporting the rebellion, which has smoldered for 24 years despite repeated military operations.

Saudi terrorism: Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler has offered tantalizing and sketchy details about an alleged plot against a "brotherly, neighboring" country, the official Saudi Press Agency reported Saturday.

From Prince Abdullah, speaking Friday at a reception for senior officials, state authorities had arrested a man suspected of planning terror attacks in the unnamed country.

Saudi Arabia, which faces its own terror problem at home, has been under pressure to ensure militants do not cross its border into Iraq, where a U.S.-led occupation force has faced fierce attacks blamed in part on foreign Muslim extremists. Saudi officials insist they have largely secured the border.

Bahrain release: Bahrain's king on Sunday ordered the release of a human rights activist who had been sentenced to one year in prison in a case linked to his criticism of



Fractious Ukrainian vote: A Ukrainian soldier leaves a voting booth Sunday while other soldiers stand in line to receive ballots at a polling station during presidential elections in Kiev. Ukrainians cast ballots for president on Sunday, choosing between a Western-leaning reformer and the Kremlin-praised prime minister in a runoff election that many fear will erupt into unrest and violence. Supporters of both candidates — Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko and opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko — began complaining of voting problems just hours after the polls opened. The vote comes after months of tension that included widespread opposition allegations of official interference, claims that Yushchenko was poisoned and a cliffhanger first-round vote. Exit polls on Sunday afternoon showed Yushchenko in the lead.

the prime minister. Abdul-Hadi al-Khawaja had been convicted earlier Sunday of inciting hatred of the government and spreading false information, and sentenced to one year in prison.

But the king, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, later issued a decree "pardoning al-Khawaja from spending the rest of his sentence in jail, to suffice with the period he spent in jail before issuing this decree," Bahrain's news agency reported.

The decree appeared to be a suspension of the remainder of the sentence rather than a pardon of the charges.

States

Diverted plane: Two Moroccan men were taken off a flight from Paris bound for Washington after officials determined one of the men was on the U.S. no-fly list.

Air France Flight 026 was diverted to Bangor, Maine, on Saturday night and the two men were being detained Sunday as officials investigated why the passenger was allowed to board the plane in Paris. The second man detained was traveling with the banned passenger.

The plane eventually flew on to Dulles International Airport, arriving more than two hours late.

Michael Jackson case: The prosecution in Michael Jackson's child molestation case has accused the defense of abusing the judicial process with sweeping demands for medical records of the alleged victim and his family, including gynecological records for his mother and information on his 3-month-old brother.

In court records unsealed Friday, the Santa Barbara County district attorney's office blasted subpoenas from Jackson's team and a court order that says people who received them from notifying prosecutors.

Jackson has pleaded not guilty to child molestation, conspiracy and administering an intoxicating agent — alcohol — to a boy. His trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 31 but Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville has

been working through a blizzard of pretrial motions by both sides.

Trains in trouble: Although Congress approved a \$1.2 billion subsidy for Amtrak, the money-losing passenger railroad still is careening toward a major disruption in service.

To save it, the Transportation Department's inspector general says, Congress must do more. Considering current Amtrak policies, says Inspector General Kenneth Mead, it's up to lawmakers to determine what must go and what may stay to restructure Amtrak and stop the hemorrhaging.

Mead said it's impossible to tell when the railroad will experience a major failure.

Tracks need to be repaired, locomotives and cars need overhauls and three bridges over rivers in Connecticut must be replaced before they fail. The railroad simply lacks the money to make the repairs.

Mead, the Bush administration and some members of Congress want to eliminate unprofitable routes and to invest instead in corridors between cities fewer than 500 miles apart.

War on terrorism

Guantanamo detainees: U.S. military review tribunals have ordered five more prisoners to remain held as enemy combatants in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a Navy official said Saturday.

The decisions were made after the men appeared before Combatant Status Review Tribunals, which are intended to decide whether the approximately 550 detainees at the U.S. naval outpost in eastern Cuba are properly held as "enemy combatants" or should be freed, Navy Lt. Gary Ross said.

Of the 398 cases heard so far, 135 prisoners have been ordered held and one Pakistani prisoner has been freed, Ross said. Rulings on the rest are pending, though more than 150 cases have yet to be heard.

Stories and photo from wire services

Commission sets Iraq election for Jan. 30

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's Electoral Commission on Sunday set national elections for Jan. 30, and a spokesman said ballots would be cast nationwide, including in areas now wracked by violence.

The announcement reflects the Iraqi and U.S. government's determination to push ahead with the vote despite escalating unrest — including heavy gunbattles in the streets of Baghdad, an insurgent uprising in Mosul, Iraq's third biggest city, and persistent attacks across a central belt of the country.

U.S. forces in Mosul found two more bodies, including one of an Iraqi army soldier, on Sunday near a site where the bodies of nine Iraqi soldiers were found a day before, said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings with Task Force Olympia.

The nine were identified as soldiers based at al-Kisik, 30 miles west of Mosul. Four other decapitated bodies, still unidentified, were found in Mosul on Tuesday.

In an Internet statement posted Sunday, the terrorist group of Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Al-Qaida in Iraq, claimed it killed 17 Iraqi National Guardsmen from al-Kisik. The report couldn't be independently verified. Hastings said he had no report of missing Iraqi guardsmen.

U.S. and Iraqi forces in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, have been working the past week to put down an uprising launched by guerrillas who seized police stations and other sites. The uprising was part of a wave of violence across the country coinciding with the U.S. offensive against the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, west of Baghdad.

In Ramadi, insurgents launched a deadly ambush Sunday in a guerrilla stronghold, killing eight Iraqi National Guardsmen and injuring 18 others, police said.

The Iraqi forces were on patrol in the city center when gunmen opened fire on their convoy around 4:00 p.m., said Capt. Nageeb Abdullah from the Anbar provincial police force.

In Baghdad, four large explosions shook the area near the U.S.-guarded Green Zone — a frequent target of insurgent mortars and rockets — after sundown Sunday. There was no word on any damage or casualties.

Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's office confirmed Sunday that Allawi's cousin was released by kidnappers.

Ghazi Allawi, 75, had been abducted by gunmen from his Baghdad home on Nov. 9, along with his wife and his pregnant daughter-in-law. The prime minister's office had no other details on his release.



U.S. army soldiers search for insurgents suspected of planting a roadside bomb in Mosul, Iraq, on Sunday. U.S. and Iraqi forces in Mosul have been working to put down an uprising launched by guerrillas who seized police stations and other sites.

The two women were later released on Nov. 15.

Farid Ayar, spokesman of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, said areas still beset by violence — including Fallujah and Mosul — will participate in the elections.

Iraqis will go to the polls to choose a national assembly, which will among other things draft a permanent constitution. The vote is seen as a major step toward building democracy after years of rule by Saddam Hussein.

"No Iraqi province will be excluded because the law considers Iraq as one constitution, and therefore it is not legal to exclude any province," he said.

Elsewhere, the U.S. military said that Iraqi and U.S. forces have detained more than 1,450 people in connection with the Fallujah offensive. More than 400 detainees have already been released after being deemed to be non-combatants.

Northeast of Baghdad, U.S. forces conducted a raid to capture a "high value target" associated with Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in Haqlaniyah, a U.S. spokesman said Sunday. Three people were detained, though the military did not say whether the target was among them.

The raid in Haqlaniyah, about 135 miles from Baghdad, came late Saturday, when troops seized three people and a weapons cache, 1st Lt. Lyle Gilbert said.

Witnesses said U.S. troops raided a Sunni mosque Saturday night, arresting its cleric, Dourad Fakhr, and detaining dozens of residents in nearby homes during the sweep of Haqlaniyah. The U.S. military denied that a mosque was raided in the area.

The government has launched a campaign against some hard-line Sunni clerics accused of fueling the insurgency or allowing weapons to be hidden in their mosques. On Friday, Iraqi and U.S. forces raided Baghdad's Abu Hanifa mosque — one of the country's most important Sunni mosques.

The violence has raised fears that staging elections and setting up voting booths in the most insurgent-torn areas will be impossible. The Fallujah offensive and other U.S. action against the guerrillas has also raised the possibility many in Iraq's Sunni Arab minority will boycott the vote. The effort in either case could serve to make the vote illegitimate.

Sunday was the first time a date for national elections was set; the commission was charged with choosing a date before the end of January.

The commission has asked the United Nations to send international monitors for the elections. Around 35 U.N. experts have already arrived, he said, adding, "we need as many monitors as possible."

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,221 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 946 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said as of Friday. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 73 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,083 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 837 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One U.S. soldier was killed in an ambush Saturday in Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Dimitrios Gavril, 29, New York; killed Friday in Anbar province, assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Phillip G. West, 19, American Canyon, Calif.; killed Friday in Anbar province, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Luis A. Figueroa, 21, Los Angeles; killed Thursday in Anbar province, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Michael W. Hanks, 22, Gregory, Mich.; killed Wednesday in Anbar province, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Creditors' group to write off billions in Iraq debt

BY JOHN LEICESTER

The Associated Press

PARIS — Major economic powers agreed Saturday to write off billions of dollars of debt for Iraq, the French Finance Ministry said, in a deal that marked a significant step in U.S. efforts to bring the Iraqi economy back on its feet.

Under the agreement, the Paris Club of 19 creditor nations will write off 80 percent of the \$42 billion Iraq owes to the 21-country spokesman René Forgues said.

"It's 80 percent, it's official," Forgues said. He said the deal would take effect in three phases but did not give additional details.

The Paris Club includes the United States, Japan, Russia and several European nations. Iraq

owes another \$80 billion to various Arab governments.

The United States had been pressing for up to 95 percent of the Paris Club debt to be lifted. Iraq has said that its foreign debt was hindering postwar reconstruction, already struggling amid the country's persistent insurgency.

The deal represented a considerable concession from France, just as French President Jacques Chirac's government is pushing to rebuild damaged ties with the Bush administration.

A Russian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the first tranche of debt reduction would take effect immediately,

with a second portion to follow in 2005 upon completion of a preliminary agreement between Baghdad and the International Monetary Fund.

The third and final portion would take place upon completion of a three-year economic program to be agreed on with the IMF, the official said.

The deal was reached after Russia, the one country that still needed to sign off on the deal, gave its approval after talks that began Saturday went through the night, officials said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has previously said his country would be willing in principle

to write off more than half of Iraq's \$8 billion debt to Moscow through the Paris Club.

Putin told President Bush in a meeting Saturday "that he was prepared to work with the United States, the other members of the Paris Club, as we review this issue in the next hours and days," said a senior U.S. official. They met at a 21-nation economic summit in Chile of Pacific Rim leaders.

Bush said a Paris Club agreement was close, and he "wanted to work with the Russians so that we could get the substantial debt reduction that we're looking for — 80 percent write-off," the U.S. official said.

A large reduction in Iraq's debts to the group would mark a significant step in U.S. efforts to get the Iraqi economy back on its feet and be a boost for Bush as he embarks on his second term.

France had long argued that slashing Iraq's Paris Club debt by more than half would be unfair to other poorer nations that also are saddled with debts but do not have the potential wealth of oil.

"How would you explain to these people that ... we are going to do more for Iraq than we have done in 10 years for the 37 poorest and most indebted countries in the world?" Chirac said in June at a Group of Eight summit.

AP White House correspondent Terence Hunt contributed to this report from Santiago, Chile.

319th CSB keeps supplies moving in Iraq

'If the soldier wears it, eats it or uses it to fix something, it's going to come across this yard'

By RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — If there is an enduring image of this war, it may be that of the supply convoy, a parade of trucks and their protective Humvees rolling across the desert landscape.

All armies require supplies; the constant care and feeding of those troops can be a dangerous affair.

Suicide car bombs, roadside bombs and ambushes are as much a part of cross-country travel in Iraq as mechanical breakdowns, flat tires and dust storms.

Yet, for all that, the amount of stuff transported from point to point is staggering.

On any given day in Iraq, the country is crisscrossed by 200 to 250 convoys, roughly 2,500 to 3,000 vehicles.

They carry the nourishment necessary for an army at war, whether it is bottled water to keep the troops rolling or grease and oil to do the same for vehicles.

The Corps Distribution Center at LSA Anaconda is a central point in this effort. On an 85-acre piece of ground, the 319th Corps Support Battalion receives, separates and pushes onward everything moving through the theater except ammunition. Clothes, oil, rations — you name it, the CDC handles it.

"If the soldier wears it, eats it or uses it to fix something, it's going to come across this yard," said Maj. Brian McMurry, support operations officer for the 319th CSB, which is part of the 13th Corps Support Command.

When the supplies arrive by ground or air at the CDC, they are segregated according to the forward destination. Empty flat bed trucks await their load in lanes set aside to represent a particular part of the country.

The pallets are removed from one trailer and carried by forklift to another, which will eventually take them to their final destination.



PHOTOS BY RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Gloria Glass of the 302nd Transportation Company watches as supplies are unloaded at the Corps Distribution Center at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq. Supplies for the entire Iraqi theater are pushed through the center with about 200 to 250 convoys crisscrossing the country each day.

"The intent is, the cargo never hits the ground," McMurry said.

Prior to the 319th CSB's arrival in February, the supplies were removed from one truck and put on the ground to await further movement. The 319th CSB changed that.

"It would sit there three days," McMurry said. "Right now, it sits here 12 to 18 hours. The less time the cargo sits here, the happier we are."

Still, the CDC has to maintain a stockpile of important items. None may be more important in this environment than water. On Wednesday, 450,000 cases of water were on hand — "a sea of water," McMurry said.

In the hot summer months, the CDC held as many as 800,000 cases.

Cases of MREs numbered 200,000 on this day.

But as the 13th Corps Support Command prepares to bid farewell to Iraq in a few weeks, a few cumulative numbers are in order. McMurry supplied them.

The CDC has put out 1 million pounds of cargo daily since March 4, averaging 200 trucks being processed a day.

It has issued 32.4 million bottles of water, 12.1 million MREs and 2.9 million UGRs — Unitized Group Rations.

The work is done by 58 soldiers and 80 contract workers for KBR, working 24 hours a day, rain, shine or mortar attack.

One of those soldiers, Spc. Adam Thomas, said, "It can almost seem overwhelming."

In one corner of the CDC is the Material Redistribution Section, sort of like the lost letter section at a post office. Here sits the supplies without a home, stuff that arrived at the CDC without a proper address.

"It's the land of misfit toys," McMurry said.

Helicopter engines and toolboxes and other lost items sit on the ground. McMurry said the good news is, most of it will be placed.

The stock numbers and parts numbers on most items will at

least get them forwarded to a place that needs them, even if that is not the original destination.

McMurry will soon be leaving, so he will miss out on the future improvements to the CDC. A 120-acre site on the Anaconda is being readied to become the new CDC, scheduled to be in use sometime next spring.

Asphalt will replace gravel, the major sand, which will protect the supplies and the workers from the dust. The lighting will be improved.

A warehouse 420 feet on each side and 50 feet high will hold rations. Now, McMurry said, rations are kept in containers and the heat of the desert degrades them. The warehouse will hold them in a more climate-controlled environment.

The "yard of tomorrow," as he calls it, will be able to process 400 trucks daily, an increase from the 250 processed daily now.

Although this yard sits on a base that is attacked daily by rockets or mortars, it does seem far from the fight. McMurry said the reinforcements often to the troops that their work has an impact on the battlefield.

"I try to keep it fresh in their minds, the importance of what they do," he said.

Spc. Emanuel Fletcher, who processes trucks when they arrive, said he knows his work is linked to the war effort.

"If we can't get the supplies to them..." he said, not finishing, knowing the answer is obvious.

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Awesome responsibility over convoys nears end for officer

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — For the past nine months, Lt. Col. Sue Davidson has been directing convoys around Iraq like a chess player moving pieces on a board.

Yet she, too, is somewhat taken aback when the figures are written in black and white.

From Feb. 8 to Nov. 2, Davidson, commander of the 49th Transportation Battalion, oversaw the movement of 57,715 convoys, a total of 785,882 vehicles. Each day averaged about 215 convoys and nearly 3,000 vehicles.

"I don't think about what I do until I start talking about it," she said.

Then, she admitted, there's a feeling of "awe" about it.

Preparing to leave soon to Texas and her two children, Davidson has had strict control over the trucks that carry supplies, from food to clothes to ammunition, to 140,000 troops and thousands more civilians in Iraq.

"I don't own a single vehicle. I just control them," she said. "They can't go out a gate until I tell them."

But with that comes great responsibility. Say a roadside bomb has stopped traffic along one route. She has to divert other convoys on that highway to other routes or to a safe haven so they are not stopped in the middle of nowhere. Each convoy averages 50 people.

"I can't afford for my drivers to be sitting on the road waiting for something to clear," she said. "They'd be sitting ducks."

Many of the trucks are equipped with various communication gear and technology so Davidson

can monitor every step of every convoy from her office at LSA Anaconda.

"I know where my trucks are," she said. If someone makes a wrong turn, she can tell them.

She has 31 teams at various points throughout the theater, from bases and ports to railheads and airfields. They pass along to her what is needed by the troops in the field. She sends that request to the "fusion cell," representatives from command, operations, intelligence and the like.

Once the goods have been located and approved for shipment, the list goes back to Davidson who organizes a convoy to get the goods to the customer.

"I do plan a week in advance, but I can change it with a moment's notice," she said.

She also organizes supply by aircraft, which means trucks and people don't have to cross the dangerous roads of Iraq. This also provides some eye-popping numbers. Air movements since February have kept more than 9,000 trucks, 930 MP escorts and almost 40,000 soldiers off the road.

And although rail shipments are rarely used anymore, during the surge to replace troops 10 months ago rail movements kept more than 1,200 trucks and 5,000 soldiers from traveling Iraq's roads.

"We've done a lot of things to try to get trucks off the road," she said.

The roads are dangerous, of course. She said the worst 24-hour period in its tenure saw 65 incidents involving her convoys.

"There were several simultaneous interactions on the road network," she said.

— Ron Jensen

Maj. Brian McMurry stands beside some of the tens of thousands of water bottles now stored at the Corps Distribution Center at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq. McMurry is support operations officer for the 319th Corps Support Battalion, which keeps the Iraqi theater supplied with everything from water to helicopter rotors.



Wounded Iraqi troops fill Air Force hospital

By RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Iraqi troops wounded as they fought alongside Americans in the recent Fallujah offensive are filling nearly half of the beds at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad, worrying doctors about the availability of bed space should another tidal wave of patients arrive.

"We are very nervous," said Dr. (Col.) Greg Wickern, commander of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group.

Unlike the wounded Americans, Iraqi casualties are not evacuated to the Army Regional Medical Center at Landstuhl, Germany. They remain in Iraq, requiring a bed and the attention of the medical staff.

And because of both a weak health care system in Iraq and the danger faced by Iraqis who help Americans, many patients cannot be released from the hospital at Balad Air Base, known as Logistics Support Area Anaconda.

If another military action or a particularly effective mortar blast create a large number of casualties for Wickern's hospital, he said, "We would have to swell our bed space."

An Air Force Theater Hospital is defined as an 84-bed hospital with the capacity to expand. Specific numbers of patients are not discussed.

During the recent fighting in Fallujah, the hospital received hundreds of wounded, including American troops, Iraqi allies, enemy combatants and civilians.

Shiite American servicemen were killed and about eight Iraqi soldiers were killed



A U.S. Army soldier and an Iraqi army soldier patrol together on the outskirts of Mosul, Iraq, on Saturday. Iraqi troops who were wounded fighting alongside Americans in the recent Fallujah offensive are filling nearly half the beds at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad. Unlike American wounded, who are usually evacuated to Landstuhl, Germany, for further treatment, the Iraqi patients must stay at the hospital indefinitely.

during offensive to take back Fallujah, said Marine Lt. Gen. John Sattler, commander, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, in a news conference from Fallujah on Friday. About 425 American and 43 Iraqi servicemen were injured during the fighting.

Wickern said about 20 percent of the patients treated at the hospital during the weeklong offensive in Fallujah were Iraqis fighting alongside Americans, but those casualties now tie up between 40 and 50 percent of the beds.

The Iraqi patients require ongoing care from the hospital staff, unlike wounded Americans who are evacuated for additional care as soon as possible, sometimes within hours. American patients rarely stay longer than a day or two.

"We have to provide a much more definitive level of care for our host nationals," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Jim Quinn, hospital chief of staff. "The volume of total care we give them has been a surprise."

Because of the nature of the injuries, many patients are unable to receive the care they need in the local hospitals, Wickern said.

An Iraqi health care system is trying to build itself back up," he said. The Ministry of Health has made that a priority.

But it still lags behind and can not offer the treatment many of these patients need. Also, the patients could face the wrath of insurgents who want to discourage with graphic measures cooperation with Americans.

"You can't take these people and put them in a facility that is not considered infiltration-proof," Wickern said.

Some patients have been released to family members.

An Iraqi physician visits the hospital once a week to assess patients and take those he thinks can be treated safely outside the wire of the American base, Wickern said.

"Normally, he takes about two people back each trip," he said.

Wickern would like the visits increased to two or three times weekly to possibly open up some of the beds before they are needed for new patients.

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Conference on Iraq clouded by disputes

By SALAH NASRAWI
The Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — Iraq's sharp accusations that its neighbors aren't doing enough to restore stability, as well as disputes over money and policy cloud this week's international gathering on how to help a country ravaged by war and insurgency.

In addition, representatives of the Group of Eight industrialized nations, Mideast states and other key players who open their two-day meeting in this Red Sea resort Monday may find it hard to concentrate on Iraq. Vying for attention are the region's other crises.

Israeli-Arab tensions and fears Iran, one of the participants in the Sharm el-Sheikh conference, has a nuclear weapons program.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell preceded his stop in Sharm with talks with Palestinian and Israeli leaders in Israel and the Palestinian territories, and may meet on the sidelines in Sharm with officials from the European Union, Russia and the United Nations. Those three and the United States make up

the "Quartet" of sponsors of a Mideast peace plan known as the road map.

The British, Russian, Spanish and German foreign ministers were headed to Israel and the Palestinian areas in the days after Sharm, with the Nov. 11 death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat focusing new attention on the stalled road map.

On Iran, the United States has been Tehran's chief accuser in the debate over a nuclear program Iran insists is only for peaceful energy purposes. Iran and the United States have not had diplomatic relations since the toppling of the U.S.-backed shah in Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

Some press reports have suggested Powell may meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki on the sidelines at Sharm. But Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi, speaking to reporters in the Iranian capital Sunday, said Iran saw little need for such a meeting, in part because Powell will soon be leaving his post.

Iran is among the Sharm participants under pressure to show it



Egyptian policemen secure the Jolie Ville Congress Center at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on Sunday. Several national and world organizations are gathering for a conference at the resort this week to discuss the stabilization of Iraq.

is doing more to keep anti-U.S. militants from slipping into Iraq, and to show it is not meddling in Iraq's affairs. Shiite majority Iran is seen as having an interest in seeing Iraq's long-suppressed Shiite majority gain political power, and some accuse it of wanting Iraq to have a hard-line theocracy similar to its own.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said his delegation in Sharm will present a package of proposals, including a call for tightening borders and exchanging information about militants operating in neighboring countries.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's spokesman, Thair al-Nageeb, was blunt: "We have evidence, we have documents and we have proof that indicate that some neighboring countries are contributing to increasing the violence in Iraq."

"At Sharm el-Sheikh, the Iraqi government will put pressure on the neighboring countries not to use their territories to support violence and terrorism in Iraq," al-Nageeb said.

Iraq's neighbors, though, have other priorities.

"We will attend the conference

seriously to announce our objection to the way the U.S. handled the situation in Iraq, call for withdrawal of foreign forces from Iraq and insist on holding elections on time," Iran's Asefi said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa toured Egypt, Iran and Turkey ahead of Sharm seeking support for a Syrian proposal that the conference should set a timetable for U.S.-led troops to withdraw from Iraq. Arab diplomats said the Syrian proposal was deemed unrealistic and turned down by conference organizers.

*"We will attend
... to announce
our objection
to the way the
U.S. handled
the situation
in Iraq."*

Hamid Reza Asefi
Iranian spokesman

4 killed at alleged al-Qaida sites in Afghanistan

U.S.-led raids nets weapons, cash, suspects

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S.-led troops mounted overnight raids on suspected al-Qaida compounds in eastern Afghanistan, killing four people and detaining several others, officials said Sunday.

The U.S. military said "several Arab fighters" were among the suspects killed or detained in the operation in Nangarhar province, although a local official said only Afghans survived.

News of the operation came as the top American commander in Afghanistan told The Associated Press that al-Qaida suspects continued to slip across the nearby Pakistani frontier.

The overnight attack targeted several compounds which "had clear connections to al-Qaida," the military said in a statement.

It said the operation was launched partly on the basis of a tip-off from local residents and also netted a haul of weapons, explosives and cash.

Faizan ul-Haq, a spokesman for the provincial governor, said Afghan soldiers as well as Americans took part in the raid in Bati Kot district of Nangarhar.

He said the four people who died were burned beyond recognition, making it impossible to check their nationality.



U.S. soldiers raise an American flag as Afghan National Army soldiers keep guard at a new U.S. base in Paktia province, about 120 miles southwest of Kabul on Sunday. Lt. Gen. David Barno, the American commander in Afghanistan, inaugurated the new U.S. base to be used for reconstruction in the troubled border area.

"We are not sure if they burned themselves before the operation started or if the Americans somehow burned them," ul-Haq said.

Ul-Haq said the five people detained were a man named Syed Rahman and four members of his family.

He said that, according to local police, the four people who were killed had been guests at Rahman's house.

Nangarhar lies in a swath of Afghan territory where U.S. and al-

Qaida bases continue to battle Taliban-led rebels three years after the fall of the hardline militia.

Lt. Gen. David Barno, the commander of the 18,000 mainly U.S. troops in Afghanistan, said rebels including al-Qaida fighters were still slipping in from Pakistan.

"There's continued infiltration back and forth on both sides of the border," he said in an interview after inaugurating a new U.S. base supposed to foster re-

construction in the troubled border area.

American and Pakistani forces on either side of the frontier "work very closely ... to reduce that infiltration and strike back at the terrorists when they do come back and forth," he said.

The mountainous border zone is also a suspected hiding place for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Barno said the military didn't

know where they were but were looking for any sign of their whereabouts.

"Once we do find out where they are we'll move as rapidly as we can with our allies here in the region to capture or kill them," he said.

Barno and the U.S. ambassador also urged the Taliban to abandon their armed struggle against the government of Afghan leader Hamid Karzai after his triumph in recent presidential elections.

Karzai has offered an amnesty to all Taliban members except for several dozen leaders, and said his top priority now is fighting Afghanistan's booming narcotics trade.

Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said the U.S. government would next year allocate a "similar amount" to the \$2.3 billion spent on reconstruction in 2004, but that the drugs trade was weighing on Afghanistan's bond with its foreign backers.

U.S., British and Afghan officials are working on plans to crack down hard on opium and heroin traffickers after a U.N. report released on Thursday showed that opium poppy cultivation surged to a record this year.

"Drug dealers could take over the political process in the country and narcotics money is a source of financing for terrorists and extremists," Khalilzad said.

"The United States will stand with Afghanistan as it strives to stand on its own feet, to become a model country in this part of the world, free from warlords, excessive drug trafficking," Khalilzad said.

Associated Press Writer Amir Shah in Sharana contributed to this report.

Iraqi police, forces plan crackdown on insurgent areas south of Baghdad

The Associated Press

HILLAH, Iraq — A joint operation by Iraqi police and National Guard in Baghdad and central Babil province will be launched this week against insurgents operating in a belt of cities south of the capital, police said Sunday.

"We and the Baghdad police, with the participation of the National Guards will purge the regions of Haswa, Latifiya, and Mahmoudiya," said police Capt. Hadi Hatif. "We will work on two fronts to carry out this mission."

The three towns, which are 20-30 miles south of the capital, have been a major area of insurgent activity.

U.S. and Iraqi forces have come under repeated attack by car bombs, rockets and small arms fire in the area.

The region has become known as a "triangle of

death" for many Shiite Muslims, Westerners and members of the Iraqi security services, many of whom have become the victims of Sunni Muslim insurgents and criminal gangs.

Hatif said the operation also will concentrate on more rural and remote regions surrounding the towns.

He also said that Hillah police managed to capture four leaders of terror groups operating in the area, though he declined to give details.

Also on Sunday, police said a suicide car bomber attempted to kill the police chief of Hillah by ramming his car into Gen. Qais Abdullah's vehicle.

Capt. Hadi Hatif said the attacker's car detonated before it made contact, killing only the bomber in the Saturday incident.

Abdullah was on his way to work when the attack happened in this central Iraqi town about 60 miles south of Baghdad, Hatif said.

Family mourns Vietnamese refugee killed in Iraq

The Associated Press

WESTMINSTER, Calif. — A Vietnamese refugee who fled through the jungles of Southeast Asia but died in the deserts of Iraq was buried with military honors.

Army Sgt. Quoc Binh "Bo" Tran, 26, of Mission Viejo, Calif., was killed outside Baghdad on Nov. 7 when a car he was riding in was struck by a homemade bomb.

"To Bo ... you have fought the good fight," his father, Van Tran, said during services Saturday at the Vietnamese Alliance Church in Midway City, a suburb in Orange County's Little Saigon area.

"We know you had a life full of danger, but you never called back to complain," he said. "You have honored the Vietnamese in this country."

Van Tran was a former second

lieutenant in the South Vietnamese army who was captured and placed in a "re-education camp" after the fall of Saigon in 1975.

Van Tran said in 1986 as a young boy, his son carried one sister on his shoulders and led the other by hand as the family fled through the jungle in Vietnam.

The family went through Cambodia and Thailand and eventually reached the Philippines. They came to the United States in 1989.

Marine killed in Iraq hours after son's birth

BY JOE RUFF

The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Marine Lance Cpl. Shane Kielion was killed in action in Iraq not knowing that his first child had been born just hours before.

April Kielion, the Marine's widow and high school sweetheart, gave birth to



Kielion

a boy in Omaha last Monday, said Jay Ball, Kielion's old high school football coach.

"She's hanging in there," Ball said. "She's a strong woman."

She got a terrific family and lots of supportive friends."

The baby was named Shane Kielion Jr., said April Kielion's father, Don Armstrong. He said his daughter was "doing as well as to be expected under the pressure."

Shane Kielion, a rifleman in the 1st Marine Division of the 1st Ma-

rine Expeditionary Force, was killed last Monday in Al Anbar Province, the military said.

Officials at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he was stationed, refused to comment on how he was killed. Anbar Province includes Fallujah — which American forces now control after a lengthy offensive — as well as other guerrilla strongholds.

"The family is numb, said Ball. "It's time for them to do some healing," Ball said.

Kielion joined the Marines on Dec. 3, 2002, and this was his second tour in Iraq.

Ball said Kielion had come home to visit in August, and bragged about his family.

"He was excited about his baby on the way and he always told me how beautiful his wife was," Ball told KMTV News in Omaha.

He started at quarterback for Omaha South High School in 1997 and 1998. He went to Peru State College for a short time on a football scholarship, but when that didn't work out he returned to Omaha to work and joined the Marines, Ball said.

"He wanted to improve his life for his family," Ball said.

Iraq unrest takes toll on nation's children

BY KARL VICK

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Acute malnutrition among young children in Iraq has nearly doubled since the United States led an invasion of the country 20 months ago, according to surveys by the United Nations, aid agencies and the interim Iraqi government.

After the rate of acute malnutrition among children younger than 5 steadily declined to 4 percent two years ago, it shot up to 7.7 percent this year, according to a study conducted by Iraq's Health Ministry in cooperation with Norway's Institute for Applied International Studies and the U.N. Development Program. The new figure translates to roughly 400,000 Iraqi children suffering from "wasting," a condition that takes in chronic diarrhea and dangerous deficiencies of protein.

"These figures clearly indicate the downward trend," said Alexander Malayan, a child health specialist with the UNICEF mission to Iraq.

The surveys suggest the silent human cost being paid across a country convulsed by instability and mismanagement. While attacks by insurgents have grown more violent and more frequent, deteriorating basic services cost lives that many Iraqis said they expected to be improved under American stewardship.



THE WASHINGTON POST/LATYP

Suad Ahmed sits with son Abdullah, 1, at the Central Teaching Hospital for Pediatrics in Baghdad. She has a granddaughter, 4-month-old Hiba, suffering from chronic diarrhea, in the same ward.

"Things have been worse for me since the war," said Kasim Said, a day laborer who was at Baghdad's main children's hospital to visit his ailing year-old son, Abdullah, recumbent on a pillow with a Winnie the Pooh washcloth keeping the flies off his head.

"During the previous regime, I used to work on the government projects. Now there are no projects."

When he finds work, Said can bring home \$10 to \$14 a day. If his wife is fortunate enough to find a can of Isomil, the nutritional supplement that doctors recommend, she pays \$7.

"But the lady in the next bed who she just paid \$10," said Suad Ahmed, who sat cross-legged on a bed in the same ward, trying to console her skeletal 4-month-old

granddaughter, Hiba, who suffers from chronic diarrhea.

Iraqi health officials like to surprise visitors by pointing out that the nutrition issue facing young Iraqis a generation ago was obesity. Malnutrition, they say, appeared in the early 1990s with U.N. trade sanctions championed by Washington to punish the government led by Saddam Hussein for invading Kuwait in 1990.

The invasion in March 2003 and the widespread looting in its aftermath severely damaged the basic structures of governance in Iraq, and persistent violence across the country slowed the pace of reconstruction almost to a halt.

"Believe me, we thought a magic thing would happen" with the fall of Saddam and the start of the U.S.-led occupation, said the deputy administrator of Baghdad's Central Teaching Hospital for Pediatrics, who asked to be identified only as Haider. "So we're surprised that nothing has been done. And people talk now about how the days of Saddam were very nice."

Violence also has driven away international aid agencies that brought expertise to postwar Iraq.

Since a truck bombing at U.N. headquarters in Baghdad killed more than 20 people last year, U.N. programs for Iraq have operated from neighboring Jordan. Doctors Without Borders, a group known for its high tolerance for risk and one of several that helped revive Iraq's Health Ministry in the weeks after the invasion, evacuated this fall.

"Yes, there is a price for every war," Haider said. "Yes, there are victims. But after that?"

"Oh God, help us build Iraq again. For our children, not for us. For our kids."

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Study: Family opinion key to re-enlistment

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING

The Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — The military, so the saying goes, enlists a soldier but re-enlists a family.

Getting families to re-up in time of war,

however, is a daunting task the defense department hopes will be made easier by research by experts at Purdue University.

"Today, more than ever, we don't go to war without the support of our families," said Lt. Col. Joe Richmond, a Pentagon spokesman.

Purdue's Military Family Research Institute was formed five years ago with an \$8 million federal grant to study soldiers and their families, with the research being used by policy makers to keep soldiers in the service.

From offering better housing to financial incentives to postwar counseling, military officials recognize they have to keep soldiers and families happy if they are to maintain troop strength in an all-volunteer military, Richard said.

When the research got going in 2000, the project focused on military families in peacetime. The fight against terrorism and

war in Iraq changed that focus.

"They're very concerned about redeployment," said Shelley MacDermid, co-director of the institute about 65 miles northwest of Indianapolis. "How do you bring people home and turn them around to go again?"

So far, the researchers have created an index that measures commitment among soldiers and their spouses and tracks potential attrition problems. They also helped the Defense Department develop a "social compact" that links quality-of-life programs and the military's readiness. The compact also lays out a 20-year plan to help the military compete for recruits with the civilian sector.

The institute currently is looking at the help soldiers get when they come home. A Purdue team traveled to Germany this year to interview soldiers from the 1st Armored Division, which lost at least 40 soldiers during the last three months of a 15-month deployment.

Deborah Olson of West Lafayette is participating in one study examining how soldiers from the Lafayette-based 209th Quartermaster Company have adjusted since returning home from Iraq in April.

"Spouses are not just an appendage to the member. The spouse makes his or her own decision about whether or not the family should stay in the military."

Shelley MacDermid

Co-director,
Military Family Research Institute



David and Deborah Olson and their daughters, Hannah, 5, and Ashley, 3, of West Lafayette, Ind., are participating in the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University. The institute is studying the ways in which soldiers adapt when they return home from war.

Olson's husband, Sgt. David Olson, spent a year with the close-knit Army reserve unit, which lost a member in a roadside bombing attack.

"Even my close friends couldn't imagine what it would be like to go through that," said Olson, who has two young daughters.

How the spouse views the military and the way the soldier is treated by it can determine whether the soldier re-enlists, MacDermid said.

"Spouses are not just an appendage to the member," MacDermid said. "The spouse makes his or her own decision about whether or not the family should stay in the military."

Among other projects from the institute is an assessment of how military life affects children. Researchers recently began working with 1,000 families to find ways to

ease the transition for children who move frequently.

The assessment is part of a larger project on how moving — a mainstay of military life — affects families. The defense department expects to issue a report to military leaders and school districts after reviewing the data.

The institute was created specifically from the \$8 million Pentagon grant after Purdue submitted a proposal and won the contract. Besides conducting research, the institute serves as a clearinghouse for other facilities studying military families.

MacDermid said the scope of the institute's work can be overwhelming.

"How do you try to address the needs of 3 million members and their families, 24-7, all over the planet?" she said. "It takes you just want to cover your head sometimes."

McCain claims Air Force leaders fixed bidding for Boeing contract

BY ALAN BJERGA

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain skewered the Air Force on the Senate floor Friday for its pursuit of a contract to acquire tanker aircraft from Boeing, accusing its leaders of incompetence or corruption.

"Either way, full accountability among Air Force leadership is in order," said McCain, R-Ariz.

Reading from previously unreleased internal Air Force e-mails, McCain charged Air Force Secretary James Roche, who resigned this week, and other Pentagon officials conspired with Boeing to fix the bidding on a \$23.5 billion contract that would have added 100 Boeing 767s to the Air Force tanker fleet.

Roche wrote "Go Boeing" in one e-mail, McCain said. Roche also disparaged one of Boeing's competitors, Europe's Aeronaute Defence and Space Co. (EADS) and its North American chief executive officer, Ralph Crosby. EADS owns 80 percent of the European aircraft manufacturer Airbus.

"Ralphie is the CEO and chairman of a marketing firm, for that's all there is to EADS, North America," Roche wrote.

A Roche aide said the secretary was traveling and unavailable for comment.

Air Force spokesman Doug Karas said the e-mails are old news.

"The e-mails ... reflect negotiations on an acquisition program that is now behind us," he said.

McCain has long criticized the tanker deal. But his speech Friday was unusually harsh, apparently an effort to prevent Roche's resignation from ending the controversy.

"The final chapter on the tanker lease proposal cannot be closed until all the stewards of taxpayers' funds who committed wrongdoing are held accountable," McCain said.

Former Air Force tanker negotiator Darleen Druyun, who later took a job with Boeing, was sentenced to nine months in prison last month for discussing a job with Boeing while tanker talks were under way. On Monday, former Boeing Chief Financial Officer Mike Sears pleaded guilty for his role in recruiting Druyun. Both were fired from Boeing after an internal ethics probe in 2003.

In addition to Roche, Air Force Acquisitions Chief Marvin Sambur resigned this week, but it is unclear whether the two men might face criminal charges.

The Justice Department is investigating Roche for possible conflict-of-interest violations. Sambur said last week an investigation by the Pentagon inspector general had cleared him. The inspector general declined to comment.

Karas called Druyun's actions "an affront

to the entire Air Force community."

He said since Druyun's misdeeds have come to light, the Air Force has changed its acquisition structure and is investigating all contracts with which she was involved.

A Boeing spokesman said the company is cooperating with ongoing investigations.

The tanker deal is on hold while the Pentagon completes two reports related to tanker replacement. But the controversy surrounding the contract makes it unlikely the Boeing deal will go forward, said Richard Aboulafia, an aerospace analyst with The Teal Group in northern Virginia.

McCain said he would continue to push for reform in the way the Air Force procures equipment.

The tanker scandal is just one of several suspicious deals involving Druyun, who admitted in court documents she favored Boeing in other weapons negotiations, calling the tanker contract a "parting gift" to the company.

Lockheed Martin is alleging in a court filing that current Boeing CEO Harry Stonecipher knew the company was receiving favorable treatment from Druyun, a charge Boeing denies.

Air Force officials at academy crack down on religion

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force Academy officials are cracking down on a practice by some staffers to put Bible verses at the bottom of their academy e-mail.

"None of this [Bible or personal signature notes] is appropriate, and it says this in Air Force instructions," Lt. Col. Laurent Fox said Thursday.

Academy officials sent a memo to everyone at the school Sept. 15 explaining the policy for using government e-mail.

Earlier this week, academy superintendent Lt. Gen. John W. Rosa said the school would bolster its religious tolerance training after a survey showed evidence of harassment or pressure toward cadets based on their beliefs.

He said about half the cadets who responded to the annual survey reported hearing religious slurs, comments or jokes, and that some cadets felt ostracized because they weren't religious.

Meanwhile, the academy's longtime football coach has agreed to remove a Christian banner from the team's locker room.

Coach Fisher DeBerry agreed Friday to remove the banner, which displayed the "Competitor's Creed," including the lines "I am a Christian first and last ... I am a member of Team Jesus Christ."

DeBerry put the banner up Wednesday to encourage the team, which has experienced one of its worst seasons in recent years, academy spokesman Lt. Col. Laurent Fox said.



McCain



Roche

NASA hunting for source of black holes

By MARCIA DUNN

The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The fastest-swiveling space science observatory ever built rocketed into orbit Saturday to scan the universe for violent celestial explosions that astronomers believe represent the birth screams of black holes.

NASA launched the observatory — named Swift for its speedy pivoting and pointing — following weeks of delays caused by hurricanes and a three-day postponement due to rocket trouble. The unmanned rocket climbed smoothly through a cloud-flecked midday sky, and delighted flight controllers wished the spacecraft a successful mission.

Swift, a \$250 million collaboration by NASA, Italy and Britain, should begin its hunt for gamma ray bursts by January and erase some of the mystery surrounding these explosions and black holes.

Gamma ray bursts are the most powerful events in the universe, detected only by the cosmic curtain-raising Big Bang itself.

Lasting just a few seconds on average, the bursts appear out of nowhere like flashlight beams and are thought to signal the formation of black holes.

Astronomers theorize the collapse or collision of massive stars is what produces black holes — so dense not even light can escape — and that the resulting gravitational energy sends gamma rays shooting out across time and space.

"We think that, perhaps, bursts are the birth cries of black holes and we're seeing these through-out the universe," said NASA's Neil Gehrels, principal scientist.

A single gamma ray burst releases more energy than the sun will emit in its entire lifetime at all wavelengths, Gehrels said.

Put another mind-blowing way, "If you added together everything in the rest of the universe during that second, it would not be as bright as the gamma ray burst," said Pennsylvania State University astrophysicist John Nousek, director of mission operations.

So far, astronomers have man-



NASA's Swift satellite successfully launched Saturday aboard a Boeing Delta 2 rocket at Cape Canaveral, Fla. The satellite will pinpoint the location of distant yet fleeting explosions that appear to signal the birth of black holes.

BOEING/AP

aged to identify only a couple dozen gamma ray bursts, as close as few million light years and as far as 12 billion light years. Swift should zero in on two gamma ray bursts a week as far away as 15 billion light years, representing the very first generation of stars, for a grand total of more than 200

during the planned two-year mission.

The spacecraft will scan one-sixth of the sky at any one time and thus see one-sixth of all gamma ray bursts there. The observations will help scientists learn more about what the bursts are, how black holes are formed

and how many are out there.

As soon as Swift's gamma ray burst-alert instrument spots an explosion, the spacecraft will quickly turn all by itself so that two other on-board telescopes can observe the X-rays and ultraviolet and optical light streaming from the afterglow.

State: Revised terror report still wrong

By JOSH MEYER

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Five months after embarrasing State Department officials admitted to widespread mistakes in the government's influential annual report on global terrorism, internal investigators have found new and unrelated errors — as well as broader underlying problems that they say essentially have destroyed the credibility of the statistics it is based on.

In a 28-page report, the State Department's Office of Inspector General blamed the problems on sloppy data collection, inexperienced employees, personnel shortages and lax oversight. Investigators also concluded that the procedures used by the State Department, CIA and other agencies to define terrorism and terrorist attacks are so inconsistent that they can't be relied upon.

The department's independent investigative unit concluded, however, that politics played no role in allowing so many mistakes to be published in the original version of the "Patterns of Global Terrorism" report for 2003.

The 2003 report said that terrorist attacks and related deaths had dropped to the lowest levels in three decades, and top Bush administration officials immediately took it as proof of their success in the global war on terrorism.

But the underlying data actually showed a sharp

increase to a 21-year high. The 1999-page report, made public on April 29, also omitted any significant terrorist attacks occurring after an early November cut-off date, including bombings in Turkey that killed at least 62 people, and left out some terrorist activity in Chechnya, Iraq and other locations.

Those errors were fixed in a second version of the terrorism report, released on June 22. But six Democratic senators, suggesting the Bush administration was manipulating terror statistics for electoral political gain, asked Secretary of State Colin Powell to find out what had gone wrong, prompting the investigation by the inspector general. A copy of the inspector general's conclusions, marked "sensitive but unclassified," was obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

The annual report, mandated by Congress since 1987, is relied on by Congress and U.S. counterterrorism agencies in deciding how to wage the ongoing war on terror, and is translated into at least four languages so the public, academics and foreign governments can use it to assess trends in global terrorism.

A State Department spokesman declined to comment publicly on the internal report, but said the department has no plans to review or rescind the 2003 "Patterns" document a second time.

Approximately 95 scholars from 15 countries are moving to overhaul the way it compiles terrorism statistics.

School official: Don't use stun guns on kids

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The head of Miami-Dade Schools is asking police to never again use stun guns on elementary school children, as officers have in at least two recent cases.

In a letter released Friday, Superintendent Rudy Crew told Miami-Dade Police Director Bobby Parker that "certain tactics should never be used in dealing with young children — particularly within a school."

The letter was released the same day Parker held a news conference to defend the use of a 50,000-volt stun gun on a 6-year-old boy in a school office, saying the child had cut himself twice with a shard of glass and was threatening further harm to himself.

Parker acknowledge that it was questionable when an officer used a Taser stun gun on a 12-year-old girl, who was fleeing officers because she was drunk and apparently skipping school.

Police officials did not return a call Saturday seeking comment on Crew's letter.

On Friday, Parker said officials were reviewing their policy on stun-gun use but that officers will be allowed to continue using them until the review is complete. The 6-year-old boy who was stunned on Oct. 20 was treated and then hospitalized for psychiatric observation for five days.

The girl was checked by a doctor after she was zapped Nov. 5.

The officer in that case voluntarily gave up his Taser, police spokesman Pete Andreu said.

32 U.S. Rhodes scholars named

4 are students from military academies

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thirty-two American college students will be selected as Rhodes Scholars for 2005, the scholarship trust announced Sunday.

The scholars, chosen from 904 applicants who were endorsed by 341 colleges and universities, will enter Oxford University in England next October. The scholars, the oldest of the international

study awards available to American students, provide two or three years of study at Oxford.

Four of this year's winning scholars are from U.S. military academies. They are Jason D. Shell of Gaitersburg, Md., Joseph F. Preston of Vero Beach, Fla., and Trevor C. Thompson of West Wash., from the U.S. Naval Academy, and Michael D. April of Colorado Springs, Colo., from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Rhodes scholarships were created in 1902 by the will of British philanthropist Cecil Rhodes. Winners are selected on the basis of

high academic achievement, personal integrity, leadership potential and physical vigor, among other attributes.

The American students will join an international group of scholars selected from 18 other nations around the world.

With the elections announced Sunday, 3,046 Americans have won Rhodes Scholarships, representing 307 colleges and universities.

The value of the Rhodes Scholarship varies depending on the field of study. The total value averages about \$35,000 per year.

Parking garage attendant wins \$149 million lottery

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A single player has won the grand prize from the latest Mega Millions lotto drawing.

Lottery officials said the winning ticket from Friday night's drawing — worth \$149 million — was sold at SN News, a newsstand on Second Avenue at 48th Street.

Juan Rodriguez, 49, a Columbia-born Queens man who works in a parking garage in midtown Manhattan, was the Quick Pick winner, correctly picking all five numbers plus the Mega Ball. The winnings are said to be the biggest

single winner payout in the history of the New York State Lottery.

Lottery officials were to officially announce Rodriguez as the winner at noon on Sunday.

In addition to the grand prize winner, 13 players matched all five numbers but not the Mega Ball number. They will receive second prizes of \$175,000 each.

Another 81 players matched four numbers, plus the Mega Ball number — good for \$5,000 each. The winning numbers from Friday night's drawing were: 1, 12, 24, 36 and 51. The Mega Ball number was 38.



AP photos

Visitors pass in front of Claude Monet's *Water Lilies* in the Museum of Modern Art, or MoMA, in its newly-renovated space back in Manhattan, New York, on Saturday. The museum's new design retains architectural elements of the old building but transformed the old galleries to unrecognizable new forms.

Art lovers in N.Y. converge upon renovated MoMA

BY DESMOND BUTLER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Throngs of enthusiasts, underdressed by lines wrapped around a city block Saturday, filed through the reopened doors of Manhattan's beloved Museum of Modern Art.

The renovated and expanded museum opened for a free viewing after a 2½ year renovation. While much of the collection was on display at a former-staple factory in Queens during that time, the first visitors expressed satisfaction the museum was back open at its familiar midtown Manhattan address.

"I missed it," said Ellen Hofstatter, 55, who waited more than an hour to get in before heading straight for her favorite painting, Vincent van Gogh's "The Starry Night."

The \$425 million reconstruction nearly doubled the museum's gallery space, making way for enormous crowds.

Many of them arrived hours before the 10 a.m. opening to be among the first to see the museum's collection of world class modern and contemporary art.

At 10 a.m. sharp, a museum worker just inside the entrance shouted "positions ready." Then the doors swung open to cheers.

Museum director Glenn D. Lowry, watching the scene, congratulated a colleague.

"We did it," he said. Then he greeted Tad Davis and Susan Vosburgh, a couple from Atlantic Highlands, N.J., celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary. They received a lifetime membership for being the first new visitors.

Others waiting near the end of the long line of thousands said they expected the long wait to be worth it.

"I would rather be at the front, but I wanted to come today because I am poor and can't afford \$20 to get in," said Suzanne Velov-

ic, 61, referring to the new adult admissions price, which The New York Times has labeled "an appalling and cynical figure."

"The Rockefeller should know better," said Walter Delph, 60, referring to the museum's longtime benefactors.

Inside, Lowry defended the new prices — \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors and \$12 for students. Many school groups will be invited without charge and admission will be free to all on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Lowry said.

"We have endeavored to balance our financial needs with obligations to run a balanced budget," he said. The increases are blamed in part on increased insurance fees and other fixed costs, Lowry said.

The museum's new design by Japanese architect Yoshio Taniguchi retains architectural elements of the old building but transformed the old galleries to unrecognizable new forms.

"I hope we have accomplished creating an entirely new museum, rooted in the old museum, where the collection shines as never before," Lowry said.

Dozens of visitors expressed satisfaction with the effort.

"They have improved the clarity," said Warren Walker, 60, while admiring Henri Matisse's painting, "The Moroccans."

"The old MoMA was not so clearly delineated and comprehensible in presenting the art,"

Many people said that they liked the new architecture, with its many interior and exterior views.

"It's easier to follow the transformation of the history of art and the influences of one artist on another," said Gaetan Guavin, 54, a fashion designer visiting from Quebec.

Guavin was last at the old MoMA 10 years ago, he said.

"I've seen this art before," he said. "But this is new. It's wonderful."

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Hundreds of people waited in line Saturday to get into the MoMA Saturday, as they celebrated the renovation with free admission for the day.

OPINION

Specter survived process, but at what cost?

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Sen. Arlen Specter [of Pennsylvania] — what's left of him — was weathered the storm of conservative protest to secure the chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Anyone who has followed his career should be bet on his survival. But Specter may have paid for this coveted post with his presumed independence.

The ugliness began two weeks ago, after Republicans increased their majority in the Senate by picking up four seats in the election.

Specter dared to point out that Democrats still had the ability to block President Bush's judicial nominees through the use of a filibuster, and said he expected the president to keep that in mind when nominating judges.

An avalanche of overreaction by the Republican Party's right wing accused Specter of being unsuitable for the chairmanship. Specter has pledged since then not to stand in the way of President Bush's judicial nominees. Following two days of closed-door meetings with colleagues whose

support he needs, the pro-choice Specter delivered a written statement Thursday that he will not impose a pro-choice "litmus test" on candidates and will give them prompt hearings.

As a practical matter, Specter has yet to give up much. Pledging to support the president's judicial nominees is no shift from his record of the last four years. Specter has voted to approve all of Bush's judges to date, pro-choice or not.

It won't become clear until January, when the new Congress convenes, whether Chairman Specter will in fact serve as a rubber stamp for President Bush. But in principle, his pledge to look favorably on all the president's nominees is an abandonment of his self-professed independent streak.

The presumption now is that he will approach nominees as if the far right is waiting for him off stage with a long book. That's not what the nation needs or deserves from a moderate who will be the single most important lawmaker in Washington for safeguarding settled law, including *Roe v. Wade*. When the time comes for Specter to ask tough questions, he

can't be afraid to ask them.

More disturbing than Specter's ideological jig is the manner in which a minority in America — the anti-abortion forces — are holding hostage the Senate's constitutional role of giving "advice and consent" to the president. If the upshot of the last two weeks is to guarantee confirmation of all Bush nominees, why bother to hold hearings? Just send black robes to the lucky winners via overnight mail.

Conservatives are angry that Democrats have blocked 10 Bush nominees in the last four years. Do they not want the Senate to examine the qualifications of people like Thomas B. Griffith, Bush's nominee for a lifetime post on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, who failed to maintain a valid law license for three years? In pretending to oppose a "litmus test" for judges on abortion, that's exactly what the anti-abortion forces seek — a guarantee that only conservative, anti-abortion judges will be approved. And if that's the case, the Senate's role will be reduced to that of a meek matador allowing bulls to charge right on past.



Toward that end, Senate Republicans have been contemplating a rule change to end the filibuster, thereby removing Democrats' ultimate weapon. That inadvisable move would poison an already-partyisan chamber. And all

would underscore the hypocrisy of GOP senators who did everything in their power, including employing the filibuster at least four times, to block President Clinton's more controversial judicial nominees.

When her job is in the home, guilt and joy converge

Im not supposed to like "Desperate Housewives." It's either post-feminist or pre-feminist. It's too racy or too retro. It's either an example of the backlash or a product of the cultural collapse.

Ellen Goodman



So sue me, this show made me from hell. It wasn't the mystery or the lingerie. It was Lynette.

In the very first episode, the woman who left her high-powered job to be overwhelmed by four kids ran into a coiffed and manicured former co-worker who asked how she likes her new life. After a one trenchant pause, Lynette repeated the cliché for all seasons: "This is the best job I ever had."

You have to love this woman struggling to fit her round soul into the square hole of her PTA life. The mom doing the best she can with a mother's little helper from her twins' ADD medication bottle. The wife in love with her clueless husband but willing to beg him when he suggests a little unprotected ramp.

Never mind the campy cast, the Stepford Bree, the ditsy Susan, the sleazy Gabyrielle. It's Lynette who speaks truth to power — the power of the updated and eternal myth of momhood.

This "truth" is that even a woman who purposely chooses to be a full-time mom can be one nap away from losing it. The "truth" is that mothers who would throw their bodies in front of a truck for their

children also fantasize about throwing their kids in front of a truck. OK, a little wooden toy truck.

There's a mother lode of TV shows this year: The powerful and unpredictable mother of would-be presidents on "Jack and Bobby." The real women on the "wife swap" shows, which are, in fact, "mom swap" shows. But Lynette is the pick of the crop.

This character is the creation of Marc Cherry and, more importantly, his mom. One day back in 2002, mother and son were watching the Andrea Yates trial when he expressed bewilderment at how any woman could drown her own five children in the bathtub. That's when his mother said, "I've been there."

Of course, Martha Cherry was desperate — though not homicidal — in the last years of the feminine mystique. Fast forward through 40 years of change. Fast forward through feminism.

Lynette's entire cohort grew up with the message that women can choose what they want. This is especially true for the subset of families who can afford mort-

gages on their own Wisteria Lane. The women are subject to a never-ending supply of books about the dangers of children in daycare. They are also treated to recycled articles about other women leaving corner offices for home without a word about what happens after that happily ever after.

Today's mothers worked hard and had children later. The postpartum choices they face include 60-hour jobs or none. At the same time, women who can afford to stay home are now seen as the lucky ones.

Indeed many feel lucky. But in unexpected ways, the new sense of choice has stifled the permission for complicated feelings about full-time motherhood. Love it or leave it.

Have we come full circle to a post-feminine mystique? Felicity Huffman, the actress who plays Lynette and a mother of two young children, says, "There's one way to be a mother and that's basically to go, I find it so fulfilling and I've never wanted anything else and I love it." And if you do anything that diverges from that, you're considered a bad mother. I didn't

know this existed until I became a mother and the pressure is phenomenal."

I wonder whether women have been so busy fighting the mommy wars that we've forgotten that shared pressure. In her over-the-top way, Lynette is a rare character in the demilitarized zone, talking to both sides.

She's saying, yes, you can want to be at home and still admit to going nuts at 5 p.m. Yes, you can be fiercely in love with your children and long to pack up the minivan and drive off. Yes, you can be dedicated to doing the right thing and not at all sure you're doing it.

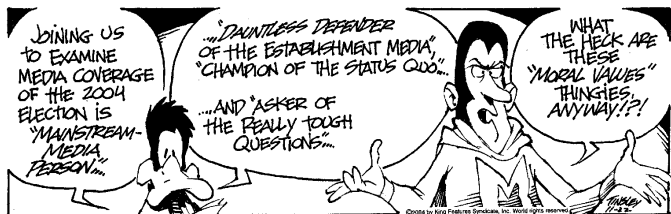
This is still largely a discussion among women. We don't yet have a prime-time show about desperate husbands trying to support the families on Wisteria Lane. Or making costumes for the school play.

But if you are looking (hard) for signposts of a slowly changing society, "DH" is not just the No. 1 show among women between 18 and 34. It's also the No. 2 among men of the same age. Right after, um, "Monday Night Football."

Ellen Goodman is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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IN THE WORLD

Plane crash in China kills 54

BY STEPHANIE HOO

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A passenger plane crashed in an ice-covered lake in northern China seconds after takeoff Sunday, killing all 53 people aboard and one person on the ground after an apparent midair explosion, the government said.

The was no immediate word on the cause of the crash, which was the country's deadliest in more than two years and was a setback to China's efforts to improve air safety following a string of accidents in the 1990s.

The China Eastern Airlines plane went

down in Baotou, a city in the Inner Mongolia region 330 miles northwest of Beijing, "only about a dozen seconds" after take off at 8:20 a.m., the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The plane, a Bombardier CRJ-200, was headed for Shanghai with 47 passengers and six crew members when it crashed into the lake in Nanhai Park, Xinhua said.

Premier Wen Jiabao ordered all-out efforts to determine the crash's cause, state television reported in its national evening newscast.

All CRJ-200 aircraft in China were grounded, and cabinet-level investigators were dispatched to the crash site from Beijing, Xinhua said.

Witnesses told the agency they heard an explosion before the plane hit the ground, and one described seeing "a big fireball" overhead.

Wang Yongqiang, who lives near the park, said he saw black smoke billowing from the tail of the plane before it crashed and broke into fiery fragments, Xinhua said.

All aboard were confirmed dead — their remains pulled from the lake by emergency workers who had to break through ice on the lake to get to the wreckage, reports said.

A worker on the ground at Nanhai Park was also killed, Xinhua said.



Rescuers work on the scene of a deadly air crash in Baotou, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on Sunday.

APEC talks look at security, economy

BY ALAN CLENDENNING

The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Pacific Rim leaders held a second day of talks Sunday on moves to shore up global security and get rid of trade barriers seen as impediments to economic growth.

Leaders of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum were expected to close their two-day summit by endorsing new security measures and World Trade Organization talks aimed at liberalizing trade for the 148 WTO member nations.

They will also decide whether to back a communique on trade and security issued by their trade and foreign ministers in the Chilean capital before the leaders arrived.

The ministers strongly supported the WTO negotiations and also proposed new counterterrorism measures to protect food stocks, commercial air flights and cargo shipments among APEC member countries.

The WTO talks collapsed last year in a dispute over reducing subsidies offered by rich countries to their farmers. But the negotiations resumed in July, and the push by APEC leaders to keep the momentum going is seen as important because the members' economies represent nearly half of the planet's trade.

Before gathering for talks Sunday, the leaders donned hand-woven Chilean woolen ponchos for an official photograph. It has become an annual tradition for the leaders to pose in local garb. Last year in Thailand, they wore silk shirts.

Later Sunday, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was to meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao. Ties between the two countries have been strained since a Chinese nuclear submarine entered Japanese waters just over a week ago.

Much of Bush's focus at the two-day summit has been to win international support for North Korea's leader Kim Jong Il to halt the country's nuclear weapons program.

Bush met Saturday with leaders of China, Japan, Russia and South Korea, all partners with the United States in the stalled six-nation talks to persuade North Korea — which is not a part of APEC — to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

No timeframe has been set for the resumption of negotiations, though the United States is pushing for early next year.

An elaborate state dinner Sunday night for Bush and Lagos was scrapped after U.S. and Chilean officials failed to agree on security measures at the presidential palace, leading Chilean newspaper *El Mercurio* reported.

The two men will instead hold an infor-



President Bush, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin wave to photographers prior to the leaders' group photo at the 2004 APEC Summit in Santiago, Chile, on Sunday.

Bush aids Secret Service agent in confrontation

SANTIAGO, Chile — President Bush stepped into the middle of a confrontation and pulled his lead Secret Service agent away from Chilean security officials who barred his bodyguards from entering an elegant dinner for 21 world leaders Saturday night.

Several Chilean and American agents got into a pushing and shoving match outside the cultural center where the dinner was held. The incident happened after Bush and his wife, Laura, had just posed for pictures on a red carpet with the host of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, Chilean President Ricardo Lagos and his wife, Luisa Duran.

As Bush stepped inside, Chilean agents closed ranks at the door, blocking the president's agents from following. Stopping for more pictures, Bush noticed the fracas and turned back. He reached through the dispute and pulled his agent from the scrum and into the building.

No breakthrough in U.S.-Mexico immigration reform

SANTIAGO, Chile — President Bush renewed his support Sunday for changes to U.S. immigration law that would allow undocumented laborers to work legally, but stopped short of pledging to Mexican President Vicente Fox that he would push for enactment of the nearly year-old proposal.

Bush made plain that terrorism was his top concern when it came to immigration issues.

"I explained to the president that we share a mutual concern to make sure our border is secure," Bush said after meeting with Fox on the sidelines of an economic summit here. "One way to make sure the border is secure is to have reasonable immigration policies. I assured him that we want people from Mexico treated with respect and dignity."

Sitting next to Fox for brief remarks to reporters, Bush did not say how he would press for the reforms, which he first proposed in January.

From The Associated Press

mal working dinner with about 20 people, instead of the 200 guests. White House deputy press secretary Claire Buchanan confirmed the dinner had been downgraded, but did not provide additional details.

The newspaper, citing high-level Chilean sources, said Lagos rejected U.S. Sec-

ret Service demands that all guests pass through metal detectors at the La Moneda palace.

Protests, many of them violent, marked the days leading up to the summit. But a small demonstration Saturday in downtown Santiago ended without incident.

Thousands of Muslims stage terror protest in Germany

BY ANDREAS REHNOLD

The Associated Press

COLOGNE, Germany — About 25,000 people marched through the western German city of Cologne Sunday in a demonstration against Islamic terrorism that was organized by a Muslim group.

Carrying placards proclaiming that "religion doesn't produce terror" and that "terror is a crime against humanity," two groups estimated by police at about 10,000 each converged for a rally in a downtown square.

Germany has roughly 3.5 million Muslims, mostly of Turkish origin.

Sunday's demonstration was organized by a group called the Turkish-Islamic Union, which called on demonstrators to "join hands for peace and against terror," and was supported by Germany's main Muslim organization, the Central Council of Muslims.

Hundreds of officers were deployed, but "there are no problems," police spokesman Udo Trabant said.

Worries about how well Muslims are integrated in German society have resurfaced since the Nov. 2 killing in the Netherlands — one of Germany's neighbors — of filmmaker Theo van Gogh, allegedly by an Islamic radical. That was followed by more than 20 attacks on religiously linked sites in the Netherlands.

On Saturday, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said that Europe must take care to avoid being "dragged into a battle of cultures" by those events.

"We can only be successful if we face this challenge together," Schroeder said. "The many Muslims who live and want to live with us cannot stand aside indifferently. They must clearly and unmistakably stand up for our legal system and our democratic rules of play."

Earlier this year, German lawmakers approved a new immigration law aimed at balancing the need to attract qualified immigrants with concerns over security.

It is designed to make it easier to observe and deport Islamic extremists operating in Germany and also aims to have new arrivals integrate in society through government-funded German language and civics courses.

Palestinians want U.S. help with elections

BY LAURIE COPANS
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Palestinian leaders outlined plans Sunday to persuade visiting American envoys to pressure Israel into removing troops from urban areas to ensure smooth elections to replace Yasser Arafat.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State William Burns met separately Sunday with Israel's national security adviser. He later traveled to the West Bank city of Ramallah to hold talks with the interim Palestinian leadership in the first visit of a senior American official to the Palestinian areas in months.

Burns was laying the ground for the arrival later in the day of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. The visits signified a renewed American interest in the region following Arafat's death and a hope for a renewal of the peace process.

"We all know that there are many challenges and obstacles on the road ahead, but the U.S. is determined to do everything we can to help," Burns said following a meeting with interim Palestinian President Raufi Fatouh.

Burns said Israel needs to help facilitate the Palestinian elections to be held Jan. 9, but he did not elaborate on what those steps would be.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said the Palestinians want the Americans to pressure Israel to remove troops from areas they have taken over during the fighting to ensure Palestinians are not intimidated during the elections.

The Palestinians are also trying — through the Americans — to work out a meeting on elections



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State William Burns, right, leaves the Palestinian Legislative Council with interim Palestinian President Raufi Fatouh after their meeting in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Sunday. Burns said Israel needs to help facilitate the Palestinian elections to be held Jan. 9, but he did not elaborate on what steps Israel should take.

arrangements with Israeli counterparts, he said.

"We are expressing a readiness to meet with the Israeli side in order to coordinate with them immediately the administrative and security arrangements," Erekat said.

The Palestinian Authority was trying to rebuild security forces

and prevent a flare-up in violence before the first presidential vote in the Palestinian areas since 1996. Palestinian officials have warned that armed gangs could foment chaos in an attempt to disrupt the elections.

Israel has stated an interest in ensuring smooth elections, but officials have not yet committed to

Arafat's nephew arrives to collect medical records

BY LARA SUKHITIAN
The Associated Press

PARIS — Yasser Arafat's nephew arrived in Paris on Sunday to collect the Palestinian leader's medical records, which could explain the cause of his death.

Nasser al-Kidwa, who is also the Palestinian representative to the United Nations, would not say when he would collect the records.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat confirmed that al-Kidwa was in Paris "on behalf of the Palestinian leadership."

"I hope the French will hand him the files" on Sunday or Monday, he said in a telephone call from the West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority has promised to make public the cause of Arafat's death Nov. 11 in a Paris-area military hospital.

A half-brother of Arafat, Mohsen Arafat, said Saturday that the Palestinian people are entitled to know what killed their leader.

"Politically, it is the right of the Palestinian people. We are

ready to hand over the records to the Palestinian Authority," he told Al-Arabiya television from Abu Dhabi.

Officials in France say medical privacy laws prevent them from making Arafat's



Arafat

The lack of information about the cause of Arafat's death has fueled rumors in the Arab world, including a rumor Arafat was poisoned. Officials have denied that was the cause of death.

Arafat's widow, Suha, has already publicly expressed her desire for the medical records, and her lawyer said she is considering whether to release information to the public.

The Palestinians also were hoping for financial assistance from the Americans.

The international community was also hoping for a new opportunity for peace in the region, with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw visiting the region this week and Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos expected Dec. 2.

Report: Mob attacks kill 3

NAPLES, Italy — Gunmen shot two men in a smoke shop and a third while he read a newspaper in his car in separate attacks Sunday in neighboring towns, as a crime clan's turf war continues to bloody the Naples area, state TV said.

In another attack, two men were shot dead Saturday night in an auto repair shop, bringing the death toll linked to the clan warfare to five in less than 24 hours.

The crime war involves the Di Lauro clan of the Camorra, the Naples-area syndicate that runs drug and weapons trafficking, extortion rackets, illegal betting and prostitution.

Buses beset by problems

VIENNA, Austria — A bus carrying travelers from Hungary to Germany and the Netherlands slid out of control on a snowy highway and went over an embankment early Sunday, killing one person and injuring 10 others, an official said.

The accident was one of dozens across Austria this past week, when strong gusts pushed cars across roads into deadly head-on collisions.

Also Sunday, an Italian bus carrying 46 people caught fire, but no one was injured, the Austria Press Agency reported. The driver of the bus, which was en route from Munich, Germany, to Italy, smelled smoke coming from the engine and pulled over about 10 miles south of the western city of Innsbruck.

From The Associated Press

Blair considers tougher anti-terror laws

The Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair's government is considering toughening already contentious anti-terrorism powers if it wins another term in office, a senior government minister said Sunday.

Home Secretary David Blunkett said the government was considering allowing wiretap evidence to be used in court and establishing special terrorism courts overseen by judges without a jury.

"We as a government have to be tough ... in facing the challenge of international terrorism," Blunkett told ITV television's "Jonathan Dimbleby Show."

Blunkett said the changes would not come until after a national election expected next year.

"It's not my intention to try and push a bill through this side of the general election, whenever the prime minister calls it," he said.

Blunkett said new measures could also include the use of "civil orders" barring suspects from committing certain acts, even if the acts themselves were not criminal. They could, for instance, prevent suspects from using a specified banking network or using the Internet.

Britain introduced tough new anti-terrorism measures after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

The most controversial authorizes the indefinite detention without trial of foreign terrorist suspects if they cannot be safely removed to another country.

Blunkett said the release in September of an Algerian man who had been imprisoned since 2001 under the laws was an example of the system working correctly.

Blunkett said the man was freed after the usual three-month review of his case.

"The networks he was involved with have been disrupted and broken up, the connections he had and therefore the dangers that he posed has lessened to the point where the security forces could recommend to me that he could be released," he said. "I think that's a strength of the system and the act, not a weakness."

The detainment without trial legislation, and Blunkett's plans for a national ID card — Britain's first since World War II — have angered civil libertarians.

EU ministers planning to expand battlegroups

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Union defense ministers meeting on Monday are expected to commit to expanding plans for elite battlegroups to be deployed rapidly to international trouble spots.

Leading up to Monday's meeting of the 25 ministers, officials said the vigorous response to the plan to create nine such groups of 1,500 troops by 2007 meant it might be possible to form at least a dozen.

The first four, which are to be led by France, Britain, Italy and Spain, should be operational next year.

Ministers are to firm up their contributions to the forces at a regular meeting at EU headquarters.

The battlegroup idea was drawn up by France, Britain and Germany to give the EU more military reach by allowing it to intervene quickly in international crises before they spin out of control.

Smaller EU nations will participate in

joint groups, often with their larger partners.

Of the 12 battlegroups, two will be kept on high alert, ready to deploy within 10 days and be self-supporting for up to four months. The units will be used mostly for peacekeeping or humanitarian operations managed by the United Nations.

In parallel to its increasing military plans, the EU is also expanding plans to provide civilian help for crisis operations through civil services.

Deathbed confession

MA SOMERVILLE — A deathbed murder confession from a woman led to the discovery of her husband's remains inside a freezer at a storage facility, where his body has been for at least six years, authorities said.

Moments before she died, the woman told one of her children that she killed her husband in California several years ago, Massachusetts District Attorney Martha Coakley said. The children informed police.

The woman apparently put the body in a freezer and shipped it from California to Massachusetts several years ago, Coakley said.

The slaying may have taken place up to 14 years ago, because that was when the woman apparently began telling her children that their father had been killed in a car accident, Coakley said. Names of those involved have not been released.

Matchmaker lawsuit

MD BALTIMORE — A federal jury awarded a woman \$434,000 in damages after she sued an Internet matchmaking service that introduced her to her abusive husband.

In what was described as the first lawsuit of its kind in the country, Nancy Fox of Loudoun County, Va., sued Encounters International of Bethesda, alleging fraud and negligence.

The Ukrainian woman met James Fox through the international matchmaking agency. They married in November 1998, less than three months after they met. He was 34, she was 27.

Bay garbage removal

HI HONOLULU — State and federal wildlife workers removed about five tons of garbage, fishing nets and other debris from Kaneohe Bay.

Divers will return to the bay to remove the remaining one ton of net that can choke coral reef, trap sea turtles and snag propellers.

Fishing nets that break free or are discarded at sea can drift for months and even years, collecting everything in their path, officials said.

"When these things come ashore they work just like a bulldozer," said David Gulko of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. "They bulldoze through a reef. They kill the coral."

Abortion clinic shooting

CA INDIO — A Southern California teenager was convicted of attempted murder for shooting his pregnant girlfriend at the clinic where she went to get an abortion.

Jeffrey Cameron Fitzhenry, 17, was convicted. The shooting April 29 left the 16-year-old girl a quadriplegic, and the fetus was declared dead three days afterward.

The victim, identified only as Sara S., testified Fitzhenry repeatedly threatened her, saying that she was "depriving him of his unborn child."

When she entered the clinic, Fitzhenry followed her, argued with her, and shot her in the neck, she said.

The jury also found Fitzhenry guilty of assault with a deadly weapon and enhancements that make him subject to a sentence of



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

life in prison. A sentencing hearing is set for Jan. 6.

Faulty police research

MO ST. LOUIS — City officials acknowledged 2003 crime figures were way off. What looked like a drop in crime to historic lows turned out to be a 4 percent rise.

It was an "honest mistake," Police Chief Joe Mokwa said at a news conference, blaming the error on a change in the way reports are filed. He said he learned of the mistake in June but didn't tell Mayor Francis Slay until recently.

Police officials realized they had failed to count 5,760 crimes; the number of murders cited in the original report was off by only one.

The department corrected the figures in its report to the FBI in July, but made no effort to publicize the changes.

University recruitment

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Minority students make up just over half of new freshmen at the University of New Mexico for the first time in the school's histo-



Colonial cooking

Canandaigua, N.Y., Primary School third-grader Zachary Saxton puts some determination and muscle into grinding up a chunk of sugar taken from a big block of sugar while participating in an open hearth cooking class held at the Ontario County Historical Society. The students learned how a cake would have been made about 200 years ago in a colonial-period kitchen.

ry. UNM enrolled a record 3,086 freshmen this fall. That includes 1,350 Hispanics, American Indians and other ethnic minorities. Overall, minority students make up 47.5 percent of 18,027 undergraduates this fall — up from 45 percent in fall 2001.

Dark days ahead

AK BARROW — This northernmost North American community of 5,000 saw the last sunshine it will see for more than two months. Barrow's next sunrise will be January 23. Ben Frantz, general manager of the Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative, said the city lights have residents through the prolonged darkness.

Funky odor lingers

PA PHILADELPHIA — An official sniffing for the source of a stench that wafted across Philadelphia.

A mysterious invisible cloud carried an odor that left sour faces and perplexed officials in its wake.

Emergency dispatchers began receiving hundreds of 911 calls about the strong smell.

Transit officials, fearful of a gas leak, evacuated a subway line in South Philadelphia for about 45 minutes.

Authorities collected air samples, phoned nearby refineries and checked the pressure of natural gas lines, trying to determine if there had been an industrial mishap.

"We don't know what it is. But we've gathered enough samples to know that it's not toxic. It's just offensive," said mayoral spokeswoman Barbara Grant.

Fraternity suspended

VA WILLIAMSBURG — The College of William and Mary has suspended a fraternity chapter for allegedly hazing a freshman whose blood-alcohol level was reportedly more than four times the legal limit for drivers of drinking age.

The student fell and was injured in the recent incident, which also resulted in charges against six members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter. Each was charged with hazing and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, college officials said.

The 17-year-old student, who was pledging SAE, was taken to a hospital Oct. 21 after suffering severe cuts and bruises to his head and ear from falling down a stairway in the fraternity house, an investigation by the college and the fraternity's national office found.

The student, the probe found, had a 0.37 percent blood-alcohol level when he arrived at the hospital. In Virginia, the legal intoxication threshold for drivers ages 21 and over is 0.08 percent.

Orange ban lifted

CA SACRAMENTO — After months of negotiations, American trade officials say South Korea is ready to lift a seven-month ban on oranges from Tulare and Fresno counties. Fruit from the region was rejected after Korean inspectors suspected it might be infected with a harmful fungus. Additional precautions required under the deal would raise growers' costs about \$50 an acre.



Thanksgiving fest

Sophie Cahill, a first-grader at Sargent School in Beacon, N.Y.,

hides behind her paper turkey as she sings a Thanksgiving turkey song with the 1st Grade Turkey Wobblers at the school. The school hosted its annual Thanksgiving luncheon, which featured entertainment and food service by the students for local senior citizens.



Rest stop

Sandhill cranes, which are beginning their fall migration back to Florida from northern areas of the nation, drink from a watering trough at a University of Florida farm near Gainesville. Each year, thousands of the birds stop at the 65-acre research farm operated by the university's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, and some birds remain in the area year-round.



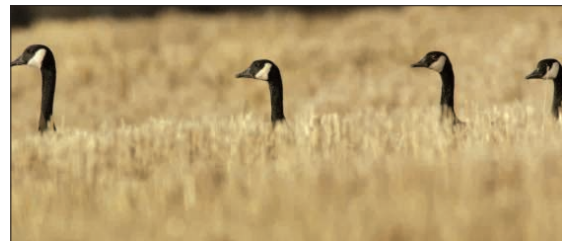
Paddling open water

A kayaker paddles across a calm Canandaigua Lake under cloudy skies near Canandaigua, N.Y.



Lifting off

A pair of hot air balloonists begin their ascent in Chandler, Ariz., during the first annual Arizona Balloon Festival. More than 50 balloon teams gathered for the three-day festival.



Goose necks

A small flock of Canada geese pauses while feeding in a field near Great Falls, Mont. Great Falls is a major resting area for migrating waterfowl at this time of year.

Duct tape day care

MA HUDSON — A family whose 8-month-old girl was duct-taped to a wall by a day care worker has agreed to settle their lawsuit against the day care center's owner and former employees for \$200,000.

Jordan Wardle, now in kindergarten, still suffers from nightmares and eating problems because of the incident in 2000 at A Place to Grow day care center in Hudson, said her mother, Johanna Wardle.

According to a report by state investigators, the center's director, Diane Davis, said she had been talking to a parent about the versatility of duct tape and decided to find out if it really did "work on everything." Jordan Wardle was not physically injured.

Davis was sentenced to 2½ years in prison for assault and battery, but she served just one week after a judge suspended the remainder of her sentence.

The day care owner, Suzanne Foley, was barred from opening more day care centers for three years after the incident. She's now president of six A Place to Grow centers in eastern Massachusetts.

Toy duck dispute settled

TN SPRING HILL — Town officials have restored a woman's business license weeks after accusing her of trying to sell a sex toy — a vibrating yellow-ducky sponge — at a flea market.

The Nashville suburb agreed to allow Katherine Williams to keep the license for her Passions & Pleasures intimate gifts business if she does not display her wares in public.

Town officials had threatened to cite Williams for violating the sexually oriented business ordinance after she set up a table at the flea market, but they could find no witnesses who would testify to seeing her display. A week later the town told Williams it was suspending her business license.

Williams said the vibrating yellow-ducky sponge was a child's toy, and she sued the town.

Library offenders beware

MI BAY CITY — Keeping library books too long could soon land some readers in jail.

Frustrated librarians want the worst offenders to face criminal charges and up to 90 days behind bars.

The library director is asking the Bay County Library Board for permission to seek arrest warrants for offenders who ignore repeated notices. The board plans to consider the crackdown next month.

One patron from Bad Axe owes \$1,190 for 73 items — mainly science-fiction books — hoarded for more than a year, the director said.

Patrons keep an average of \$25,000 in overdue materials out of the library system each year, officials said.

Baby not medical waste

VT MONTPELIER — A couple whose stillborn baby was inadvertently treated as "medical waste" nearly three years ago has

reached a settlement with Central Vermont Hospital.

Just before the deadline for filing post-trial motions, lawyers representing the hospital and Douglas and Allison Moyes of Barre Town reached an out-of-court settlement. The agreement cancels the outcome of a two-day trial that was held in Washington Superior Court.

The case began when Allison Moyes learned during a routine prenatal checkup in March of 2001 that the fetus she had been carrying for 20 weeks had died. She went to the hospital, where labor was induced and she delivered the 6½-inch-long, 5-ounce fetus.

The hospital lost track of the paperwork indicating that was the Moyeses' wish to bury the remains, and the fetus was discarded as medical waste.

No elephant retirement

MI ROYAL OAK — Winky and Wanda's tale of pachydermic woe won't wane.

The American Zoo and Aquarium Association denied Detroit Zoo director Ron Kagan's final appeal to send the two aging, arthritic elephants to one of two U.S. sanctuaries where they could roam hundreds of acres.

Winky and Wanda instead appear to be headed to the Columbus Zoo.

Kagan announced the sanctuary plan in May, citing evidence suggesting zoo enclosures of any size fail to meet elephants' extraordinary physical, social and intellectual needs. The voluntary decision to give up elephants primarily on ethical grounds drew widespread praise from the public and animal welfare groups.

The association, however, upheld a September directive by a committee charged with managing elephants in AZA-accredited institutions to send 51-year-old Winky and 45-year-old Wanda to Ohio.

Country club racism

KY LOUISVILLE — Kentucky's Human Rights Commission can now investigate private country clubs to determine if they deny membership based on race, a right granted via a state Supreme Court ruling that examined the clubs' eligibility for tax deductions.

The commission already had the right to look into the practices of public clubs.

The go-ahead came from the high court, which settled a decade-long legal fight over the agency's effort to investigate such clubs.

In a 6-1 ruling, the panel said the General Assembly empowered the commission to investigate both public and private clubs 13 years ago when it revised the tax code. At that time, legislators decided members of clubs that discriminate cannot deduct their dues as business expenses.

At odds with the commission are the Pendennis Club in Louisville, the Louisville Country Club and Idle Hour Country Club in Lexington. They expressed disappointment with the decision and said they were reviewing their options.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Aiken plans a joyful noise

Clay Aiken has fond memories of holidays at home — driving 40 minutes back from Durham, N.C., with a fake Christmas tree sticking through the back windows of his packed car because his family waited too long to buy a real tree.

But one thing the self-described “skinny, redheaded, geeky little dark from the South” hopes goes off without a hitch this holiday season is his 21-city *Clay Aiken* tour, which began Sunday in Pasadena, Calif.

“This is a different kind of concert,” said Aiken. “It’s not meant to be a show where fans bring signs and scream. The goal is to be more intimate, almost semi-formal. The crew will be dressed up in their Sunday best and I hope the audiences will do the same.”

The 25-year-old singer has been named a spokesman for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign, so Marines will be collecting toys at each stop on the tour.



Aiken

Opera star bling sells big

Jewelry formerly belonging to Maria Callas — most of it given to the opera star by her husband, wealthy Italian industrialist Giovanni Battista Meneghini — fetched \$1.86 million at an auction.

Some 200 collectors, opera fans and the plain curious packed the Sotheby’s auction room for the sale, which included 11 pieces, at the plush Le Beau Rivage hotel.

All the lots sold above their highest catalog estimate, said Sotheby’s Executive Director David Bennett, who ran the sale.

The most expensive of the jewels — an 11.7-carat, marquise-shaped diamond ring — sold for \$340,000. It had been expected to go for between \$136,000 and \$204,000, Sotheby’s said.

Callas married Meneghini in 1949, but later left him for Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis. Most of the items on sale were given to Callas in the 1950s, during the best period of her marriage and the peak of her fame.

Former rapper has the animal blues

Robert Van Winkle, aka Vanilla Ice, wants his wallaroo back.

The 36-year-old performer, who had a ‘90s rap hit with “Ice Ice Baby,” called animal control officials to report that at a wallaroo and a goat found wandering around Port St. Lucie, Fla., belong to him.

They had escaped from his back yard, city officials said.

He may have trouble getting his pet back. Neither the wallaroo, which is considered an exotic animal, nor farm animals such as the goat, are allowed in Port St. Lucie.

They were picked up by animal control after a woman reported them, saying the wallaroo, a cross between a kangaroo and a wallaby, had scratched her and kicked her car.

Need a date? Join a jury

Sex therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer thinks people should know that jury duty has an upside that doesn’t get talked about much: It’s a great way to get a date.

Westheimer, known as Dr. Ruth to her radio, television and reading public, made her observation as she and nearly 20 other celebrities marked Jury Appreciation Day at the State Supreme Court Building in Manhattan.

“Jury duty is good way to meet men and women, a partner,” Westheimer said.

Also on hand were former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, Barbara Walters, comedian Anne Mearns Stiller, singer Rosanne Cash, recording executive Clive Davis, NBC “Today” news anchor Ann Curry and actors Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick.

All the celebrities have been called to jury duty, but Giuliani is the only one who has served. In 1999, he became the first New York City mayor to serve as foreman of a civil jury that reached a verdict.

Stories and photos from wire services

Actress casts a ‘sideways’ glance at greatness

Virginia Madsen is getting raves after years of B-list roles

Virginia Madsen plays a waitress romanced by the lead character in the film “Sideways.”

KRT

BY MARK CARO
Chicago Tribune

Of all the times Virginia Madsen has been miscast, perhaps her most ill-fitting role was as a waitress in *Chicago* back when she was trying to break into acting.

She worked, she said, mostly at “pizza restaurants, because I’d get tired from the fancy ones. I didn’t like all the rules. I tended to speak my mind, which they don’t really want you to do. I was a feminist, so I didn’t like the way I was being treated sometimes.”

Yet here she is in her early 40s with a career reborn because she’s so convincing as, yes, a waitress, in Alexander Payne’s wonderful “Sideways.” While several of the roles she took after moving to Los Angeles required her to remove her clothes, “Sideways” asked her to lose her make-up and strip away artifice.

The result is a revelatory supporting performance that finds Madsen shedding her blond-bombshell B-movie image and finally demonstrating the depth and craft she learned in *Chicago* in the early 1980s. Oscar handclappers are already tuning a possible nomination for her.

When Madsen returned for the Chicago International Film Festival, Stan Adams, one of Madsen’s acting-school classmates, rushed up to her. “That’s the Gina I know,” he enthused, using her familiar moniker of earlier days. “This is the best you’ve ever done.”

Minutes earlier, during a Q&A after a screening of “Sideways,” an audience member had asked Madsen what her big break was. “I really feel like this is my big break,” she replied, “because I finally have a role that people can see what I’ve always wanted to do.”

Her breakthrough comes at an age that finds more celebrated actresses tweaking themselves with Botox and plastic surgery to give the illusion that they’re still in their 20s. Madsen remains a knockout but a natural one; you can see the lines around her crystal green eyes and on her face, which actually has movement, as opposed to the frozen-facial glam crowd.

“I remember the day John Jackson, the casting director, showed me her 8-by-10 [photo] and said, ‘Look at her eyes. Doesn’t it look like she’s been through it?’” “Sideways” director Alexander Payne recalled. “And I said, ‘Why, yes, now that you mention it.’”

“I just believed that she could be a waitress. I believed that she had been through a divorce and was on the mend. I believed the age. It’s the age I wanted that had life experience. I just believed her.”

Madsen shares key qualities with her character, Maya, a divorced California wine-country waitress who befriends hard-knock novelist Miles, played by Paul Giamatti. Madsen is divorced from actor-director Danny Huston and has a 10-year-old son with her former boyfriend, actor Antonio Sabato Jr.

She also has weathered extreme ups and downs in her career and personal finances, living in movie-star opulence one year, seeing her house go into foreclosure in another.



Like Maya, Madsen has reached a point of rededicating herself to her true passions.

“I think for so many years I was really miscast,” she said en route to visit her old *Chicago* haunts on the morning after the “Sideways” screening. “And I think that’s why sometimes it didn’t always really ring true, playing these villains and these really sexy women. It’s like I was good at it, I could do that, but something about it didn’t ultimately work.”

Madsen had a small role in the teen comedy “Class” in 1983, and shortly thereafter moved out to Los Angeles along with brother Michael, who would achieve significant success as a glowering character actor (“Reservoir Dogs,” “Free Willy.”) David Lynch got a look at her 8-by-10 and cast her in “Dune” (1984). She played Marion Davies to Robert Mitchum’s William Randolph Hearst in the TV movie “The Hearst and Davies Affair” (1985). But the turning-point came with Wayne Wang’s “Slam Dance,” which took full advantage of Madsen’s drop-dead face and seductive curves.

Although she had only three scenes in this erotic thriller, the image of her wearing a black dress slit down the front dominated the posters, including a giant one mounted above Sunset Boulevard. “This was way before J. Lo, baby,” she laughed.

From then on, she said, casting directors expected her to walk in accompanied by sultry music. “I think I didn’t really realize the momentum that that sort of image had,” she said. “I didn’t understand I had all this sexuality going on. I thought I was kind of a conservative girl, and I wanted to settle down and get married. And I did.”

But she also enjoyed the life that her image was buying her. “I was really on the money train, and I was living a pretty extravagant lifestyle,” she said. “I was living in this unbelievable house, and I was taking care of a lot of people and doing out of a lot of cash and spending way more than was coming in.”

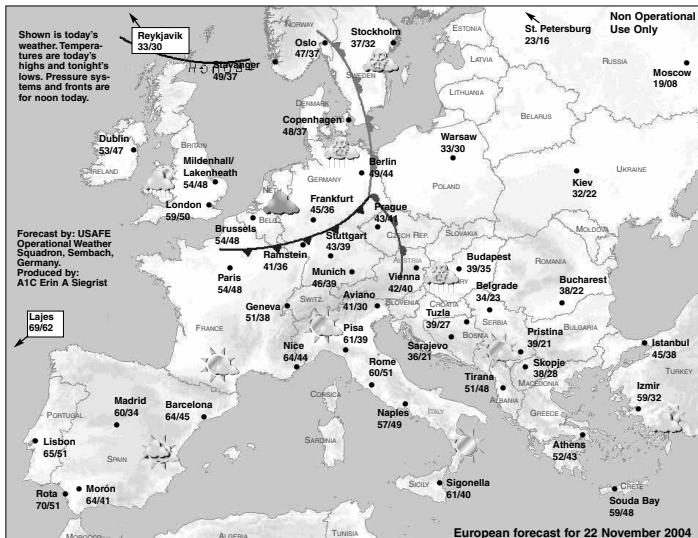
Her biggest commercial showcase was Bernard Rose’s *Chicago*-set horror film “Candyman” (1992). “I went to the premiere of that here in Chicago,” said Chicago-based agent Harriette Davidson, who represented Madsen before she moved to Los Angeles. “I thought, you know, this is a B-movie and she deserves better.”

The highlight in “Sideways” is a beautifully written and acted exchange between Miles and Maya in which the characters bare their souls while discussing their wine passions. If either actor nets an Oscar nomination, that’s the scene they’ll show.

“That monologue just got me,” Adams said. “I thought, it’s just her.”

Her friends and family share her “it’s about time” reaction to Madsen’s “Sideways” triumph. “She was just as wonderful last year as she is this year,” said Elaine Madsen, Virginia’s mother. “You all are just noticing.”

Still, the mother said the daughter has nothing to regret. “She’s made a good living and as well as being a good actress, and that’s something that lots of actors and actresses would like to say,” Elaine said. “She’s been blessed.”



European forecast for 22 November 2004



AFRICA

Capetown	HI	LO	Mogadishu	HI	LO
Dakar	69	61	Nairobi	80	67
Freeport	91	77	Rabat	69	51
Kinshasa	83	72	Tripoli	71	50

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	HI	LO	Manila	HI	LO
Bahrain	88	73	Mexico City	74	42
Beijing	60	34	Montreal	46	32
Bombay	81	64	Riyadh	80	51
Buenos Aires	72	56	Rio de Jan	78	69
Buenos Aires	72	56	Sao Paulo	73	43
Calcutta	81	64	Singapore	80	68
Chengdu	72	63	Sydney	68	58
Chongqing	68	51	Tokyo	61	51

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska	HI	LO	Ork	HI	LO
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41

Alaska	HI	LO	Ork	HI	LO
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
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Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41

Alaska	HI	LO	Ork	HI	LO
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
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Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41

Alaska	HI	LO	Ork	HI	LO
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
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Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41
Alaska	61	41	Rain	61	41

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy skies with rainshowers. Highs in the 50s, Tuesday lows will be in the upper 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy skies with rain. Highs in the mid 50s, Tuesday lows will be in the upper 40s to low 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy skies with dense morning fog. Highs in the upper 30s, Tuesday lows will be in the 20s.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy skies with rain in the north. Highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s, Tuesday lows will be in the mid to upper 40s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy skies with rain, and areas of rain/snow mix. Highs in the mid to upper 40s, Tuesday lows will be in the mid 30s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy skies with snow, becoming rain in the afternoon. Highs in the 40s, Tuesday lows will be in the 30s.

Hungary: Cloudy skies with rain/snow mix. Highs in the upper 30s, Tuesday lows will be in the low 30s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the low 40s to upper 50s, Tuesday lows will be in the low 30s to mid 40s.

Southern Italy: Sunny skies. Highs in the low 60s to upper 60s, Tuesday lows will be in the low 40s to low 50s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy skies with morning fog. Highs in the upper 30s, Tuesday lows will be in the low 20s.

Norway: Cloudy skies with snow. Highs in the low 30s to upper 40s, Tuesday lows will be in the mid 20s to mid 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly to mostly cloudy skies. Highs in the low 60s to low 70s, Tuesday lows will be in the mid 30s inland, to low 40s and low 50s along the coastline.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers and isolated rain showers. Highs in the mid 40s to upper 50s along the western coast, to mid 60s in the east. Tuesday lows will be in the 30s along the western coast, to upper 40s in the east.

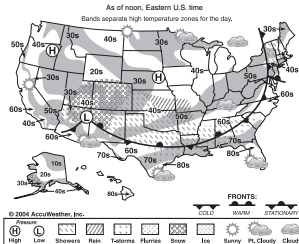
For current weather forecasts, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:
<https://ows.sembach.af.mil>
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:12am	6:12am
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:50am	7:52am
Sunset (Baghdad)	4:58pm	4:57pm
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:34pm	4:33pm

New moon 12 Dec, First 28 Dec, Full moon 26 Dec, Last 3 Dec

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to ETS or PCS?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS & STRIPES
Your HomeTown Newspaper

Horoscope

Even before man had the technology to know what the planet Venus looked like close up, humans sensed her beauty and named her appropriately. When scientists finally saw her, the soft, luminous Venus was more mesmerizing than ever imagined! She enters Scorpio this morning, adding an extreme dimension to our love lives.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(November 22). Your vision of this year is beautiful — write it down, and look at it often in order to make it happen. Put out your feet every next month, and you'll find a diverse set of resources you can draw from to turn your year in a different direction. Romance starts the new year off with you floating on air. An influx of money makes a new project possible in February.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Oh, how you want to break free. That could be why it's hard to concentrate. Though people are moving their mouths and words seem to be coming out, you're not getting what they have to say. Plan a vacation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You love hearing people's stories, and they love telling them to you. You'll find out there are fabulous examples of success around you. This spurs you toward actively pursuing one of your own dreams.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

There's a touch of the rebel-bad-crazy-in you today. Think of signmates Colin Farrell and Angelina Jolie. You do it your way, and if others are shocked or offended, oh, well. You're playful enough that their objections don't last long.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Money can help you get a project off the ground, but it's not the be-all-end-all between you and what you want. So if you can't find the cash, go forward anyway. Publicity is key. Make the phone call.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You'll be walking in fine line between self-awareness and self-consciousness. Keep in mind that only the

best people deal with nervous problems. Embrace your fear — it's ending.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Taking care of yourself is essential if you're to accomplish all you have on that extensive list of things. If you err, in that human kind of way, just make sure the conflict is solved by the time you go to bed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You're in a practical mood. You want to know for certain that desires can be achieved before you even dare to desire them. The importance of being inspired cannot be minimized. Read a biography.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Your intuition is your biggest success tool. Use it to figure out whom you need to know. You've got the guts to walk up to a perfect stranger and introduce yourself. Gemini and Leo are especially lucky.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

21. Low on faith? It's not so wrong to ask for proof once in a while. Romantically, you might feel like you're in a rut. It's time for an energizing flirtation! You've a special connection with a Pisces.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Tension seems to be bringing you together, from your head to your shoes. It's no way to live. Discharge an obligation once or for all. You'll feel the weight lift so you can dance again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Gonillas show they're in love by picking nits off of one another. If you find yourself being overly nit-picky, your heart may be telling you something. By the way, there may be healthier ways to show your affection.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

The energy and help you were blocking before now come back around — an opportunity for you to do it differently. Make use of the resources around you. Smile and take a compliment instead of being too modest.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



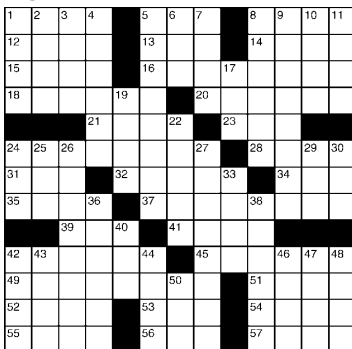
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



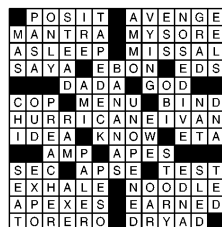
Across

- 1 Llamas' home
- 5 U.K. fliers
- 8 Commandments
- 12 Potter's need
- 13 Blueprint
- 14 Grenoble
- 15 Carrots' partners
- 16 Guaranteed not to go wrong
- 18 Evoke affection
- 20 Looked narrowly
- 21 Speedy steed
- 23 Antecedent
- 24 Beauty-parlor item
- 28 Companionless
- 31 Ancient
- 32 Tom of Indy
- 34 Article in "Newsweek"
- 35 Turn on the waterworks
- 37 Lake vessel
- 39 Curve
- 41 Artist Paul
- 42 Northern hemisphere?
- 45 Trafalgar admiral
- 49 Follow too closely
- 51 Weak, as an excuse
- 52 Otherwise
- 53 More (Sp.)
- 54 S-shaped curve
- 55 Becomes entangled

Down

- 1 Vatican VIP
- 2 Squared
- 3 Peruse
- 4 Open an envelope
- 5 Doesn't do
- 6 Chicken-king link
- 7 Impertinent
- 8 "Star Wars" weapons
- 9 Almond liqueur
- 10 Former fiancée
- 11 Tourney favorite
- 17 Actress Gena
- 19 Comments from Sandy
- 22 Dismal
- 24 Present
- 25 Brewery output
- 26 One with lofty goals
- 27 Sin
- 29 "Eureka!"
- 30 Comprehend
- 33 Sheltered
- 36 Working-class types
- 38 "Humboldt's Gift" author
- 40 Gear tooth
- 42 Detail
- 43 Festive event
- 44 Unstated
- 46 Prudent
- 47 Potent
- 48 Requisite
- 50 Hosiery shade

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-22

CRYPTOQUIP

GI L FRAJPHMYLBS LCRJY
IGEX GE VBHLY, G VJHEE
SRJ PGVXY FHEABGCH GY
LE IGMYLEYGA

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE A PRO AT DESIGNING STATISTICAL CHARTS COULD BE LABELED A GRAPHITI ARTIST.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals S

Widower must move on, be honest

Dear Abby: A year ago, I lost my wife of 16 years to cancer. "Ethel" and I didn't have a perfect marriage, but we worked at it. We both had grown children from first marriages. We also had a child together, a boy, "Ben," who is 13.

Last spring I began seeing a very nice lady I'll call Blanche. Ethel's daughters have little to do with me since their mother's death and are encouraging Ben to be rude and distant to Blanche. I realize Ben has issues, but I have tried to explain to him that life goes on. Blanche is not trying to replace his mother; she would like to be his friend.

My question is, when should I tell my in-laws about Blanche?

— Needs to Move on in Connecticut

Dear Needs: Ethel's daughters most likely already have told your in-laws about Blanche, so you should tell them the "news" now. If you don't, it will appear

that you are sneaking around—and it's important not to create that impression. It may be painful for Ethel's relatives to hear, so don't be surprised if they are less than thrilled.

Family counseling might be helpful for you, your son, and Ethel's daughters if they are open to it. Should the "girls" refuse, go with Ben. He is still young, and he lost his mother at a time when he still needed her. You are probably further along in the grieving process than your son because you had a chance to grieve for your wife during her illness.



Dear Abby

Dear Abby: I met my biological father last June, after waiting 15 years to do so. His side of the family was very warm and welcoming. They treated me as though they had known me all my life. I was nervous about meeting them, so I took my boyfriend. They treated him like family too.

— In the Middle Out West

I have not told my mom that I would see the other side of the family because she would no longer speak to me, and I don't want her mad at me. My parents had an extremely bitter divorce. Mom still holds a grudge, and she expects me to do as well.

I am being married soon, and now I am being forced to choose between my mom and my biological father. I would like everyone to be there, and for my stepdad to walk me down the aisle.

What should I do?

— In the Middle Out West

Dear in the Middle: It's time to grow up and tell your mother what you did. Although the divorce was devastating, you have the right to know your father and paternal relatives if you wish. Ask her, as her wedding gift to you, to bury her enmity for one day so you can have the wedding of your dreams. Many other families have done this, and the experience can be healing.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DAIBE

RYHUR

QUETEA

STEJAM

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www.jumble.com

Answer here:

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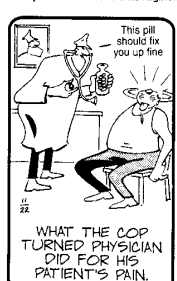
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: UTTER KNACK PLEDGE JAGUAR

Answer: How some schoolgirls pick their friends —

APART

Need help with husband's drug use

Dear Annie: I have been with my husband, "Rex," for five years. I love him very much, and he can be a great husband and stepfather. He works, provides for us and helps with all of the household and parental duties.

The problem? Rex is drug addict. He doesn't binge often, but it's enough to disrupt the family, sometimes to the point where I want to walk away and never look back. I believe a wife should stand by her husband, and I want to do all I can to help him deal with his 20-year addiction. However, I wasn't aware of his problem before we married, and my son must be my first priority.

My son adores his stepfather, but I wonder if staying is doing more harm than good for my child. Rex and I have tried rehab, Narcotics Anonymous, counseling, church activities, quitting cold turkey and even relocating so he is not near his old drug contacts. But he always goes back after a short period.

Annie's Mailbox



— Drug Addict's Wife

Dear Addict's Wife: Yes, your son must come first, and if Rex is unable to control his drug habit, you may have no choice but to leave him. Have you tried Nar-anon, a support group for spouses and families of drug addicts? If not, please give it a chance before walking out the door.

The toll-free number is 1-800-477-6291, and the Web site is www.nar-anon.org.

Dear Annie: My husband, "Trey," and I have been married 32 years.

We have a large home, and on several occasions, Trey has spontaneously invited people to spend the night without consulting me first. When his guests arrive, he informs me, in their presence, that he's asked them to stay over. One time, he invited 20 people to our family vacation home and told them I would serve all the meals for the weekend.

Annie, I am far from the hostess

with the mostest. I do not have cleaning help and work full-time in the business that my husband and I own. We also have pets. Need I say more?

I have told Trey to stop inviting people without consulting me first, but he cannot understand my position. He's even become angry that the house isn't ready for entertaining at a moment's notice.

Imposed on Kathy

Dear Boston: Since Trey isn't likely to back down, here are two solutions: You can get these guests, saying, "How nice to see you. I'm sorry I have plans and won't return until tomorrow, but I'm sure Trey will be happy to entertain you." Then go out the door and stay at a hotel. If that's too drastic, have a list of caterers, carry-out places and maid services on hand, and call them as soon as Trey brings company home. Maybe after he pays a few of the bills, he'll cease and desist.

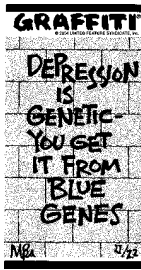
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sauer, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniemailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creator's Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"If they ever need referees at a horse race, they could use zebras."

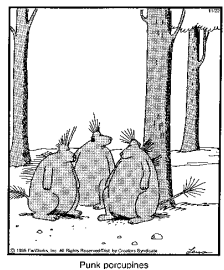


Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



Tiger ends drought with win in Japan

The Associated Press

MIYAZAKI, Japan — Tiger Woods won his first stroke-play tournament in more than a year Sunday, capturing the Dunlop Phoenix by eight strokes after closing with a 3-under-par 67.

Woods entered the final round with a 10-stroke lead and had five birdies to finish at 16-under 264 in the \$1.89 million event, the richest on the Japan tour.

This was Woods' second title this year following the Match Play Championship in February. The last time he won a stroke-play tournament was in October 2003.

"I feel great," said Woods, who led from the first round. "To have won on this course and at this event with all the great past champions is a great feeling."

Woods, who overhauled his swing this year and lost his No. 1 ranking to Vijay Singh two months ago, had gone a career-high 20 stroke-play tournaments without a victory. He dismissed the notion he has been in a slump.

"It hasn't been that long since I won," he said. "The last three or four months I've been close to winning. Going through all the changes I've made with my golf swing, it was just a matter of time."

Japan's Ryoken Kawagishi shot a 65 to finish at 272 while

South Korea's K.J. Choi also had a 65 for 274.

Woods recorded his first birdie on the par-3 No. 3 when he hit a 7-iron to 2 feet. He birdied Nos. 8 and 9 before adding two more on Nos. 13 and 16.

Woods, who won for the first time in Japan, finished eighth in this tournament two years ago. In other appearances in Japan, he was 15th at the Casio World Open in 1998 and second at the 2001 World Cup, when he paired with David Duval.

Woods said he wasn't concerned that a victory on the Japan tour won't be considered important in some circles.

"But just the way I played here with four solid rounds is enough for me," he said. "I don't worry about sending messages, I'm just very excited about the prospects for next year because of the way I played here."

Woods has now won titles in 10 countries.

"I think it's important to be a world player," he said.

"That's where the game is going. The reason why we do it is to grow the game of golf. I know it's enhanced my game because you have to play on so many different types of courses."

England wins World Cup title

SEVILLE, Spain — Paul Casey putted exceptionally well and teamed with Luke Donald to lead England to the World Cup title Sunday with a one-stroke victory over Spain.

The two combined for an



Tiger Woods tees off on the 18th hole in the Dunlop Phoenix golf tournament at Phoenix Country Club in Miyazaki, southern Japan, Sunday.

8-under-par 64 and had a total of 31-under 257 at Real Club de Golf de Sevilla. The Spanish team of Sergio Garcia and Miguel Angel Jimenez closed with a 66.

The Irish team of Padraig Harrington and Paul McGinley finished with a 65 for third, three strokes behind England. Defending champion South Africa with Rory Sabbatini and Trevor Immelman shot 68 to finish six behind.

The Netherlands (68) and Austria (67) finished eight back. The United States, featuring Scott Verplank and Bob Tway, shot a 72 and was 10 behind along with Sweden (72) and Germany (68).

Sunday's format was the more difficult alternate shot, with Casey and Donald splitting the \$1.4 million first-place money.

Garcia and Jimenez started a stroke ahead of England and despite support from almost 16,000 fans were unable to defeat their English playing partners.

Spain was a stroke behind England after 15 holes, but on the

16th Jimenez pushed a poor tee shot into rough just short of a lake, and Garcia dumped his approach into the water on the par-5 hole. The Spanish took a bogey 6 — Garcia missed a 5-foot putt to save par — to end their chances. England birdied the hole.

Sorenstam rallies for lead

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Instead of running away, Annika Sorenstam had to catch up Saturday.

Sorenstam lost her three-shot lead in five holes, then had to make three birdies over the final six holes to salvage an even-par 72 and take a one-shot lead into the final round of the season-ending ADT Championship.

"I don't know if I'd call it a roller-coaster day, but that was tough," Sorenstam said.

At least she still had the lead, finishing at 10-under 206 to give her a slight cushion over Jennifer Rosales (69) and Cristie Kerr (70). No one else was closer than five shots.

Federer extends streak

By MICHAEL A. LUTZ
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Roger Federer won a record-tying 38-point tiebreaker after rallying from a 1-4 deficit in the second set to defeat Marat Safin 6-3, 7-6 (18) Saturday in the semifinals of the ATP Masters Cup.

The tiebreaker lasted 26½ minutes and was the third to reach 20-18 since the system started in 1970. Premit Lal won a tiebreaker by that score against Bjorn Borg in the first round at Wimbledon in 1973, and Goran Ivanisevic led the same against Daniel Nestor in the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open.

"I'm happy to win that tiebreaker; it was very special," Federer said. "That was really fun. It was going back and forth and there were only big points. The level of play was very high. It's not like we were giving each other those points. The whole match was great."

The top-ranked Federer will play for his 11th title of the year on Sunday against Lleyton Hewitt, who won the final 20 points against a defeated Andy Roddick 6-3, 6-2.

Federer extended his record against 20 opponents to 22-0 dating to last year's Masters Cup, but was down 1-0 in 2003.

After rallying to force the tiebreaker, Federer fought off six set points and wasted seven match points. He then started finally ended it on his eighth match point, when 2000 U.S. Open champion Safin saved a forehand long. Safin's double-fault set up that last point.

"I'm already happy with the tournament," Federer said. "I came in not sure of how it would be because of the injury, and I hadn't played in a while, but I've won all my round-robin games and if I could win back-to-back championships, that would be fantastic."

Safin broke Federer in the second game of the second set and moved on to a 4-1 lead. Federer held in the sixth game after fighting off two set points, but then broke Safin in the seventh game on Safin's forehand error.

"I was probably going for too much because I knew I have Roger Federer on the other side, so I had to do something extra," Safin said. "I didn't really make any huge mistakes in the tiebreaker. I was unfortunately, a little bit nervous. I had to wait more for a good opportunity."

"Otherwise I don't regret anything from the tiebreaker, even though I had six break points," Hewitt trailed 2-1 in the second set and was serving when he took complete control, holding at love and not dropping another point the rest of the way.

Roddick went into that matchup determined to volley more than he usually does — but that didn't work. He broke Safin's tiebreaker Roddick a former year-end No. 1 and U.S. Open champion, improved to 4-1 against the American.

Harvick closes out Busch season with victory

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press



NASCAR Busch Series race car driver Kevin Harvick celebrates after winning the Ford 300 Saturday at the Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla.

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Kevin Harvick closed out a disappointing season in the Busch series by winning the final event of the year Saturday at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Harvick, the 2001 Busch series champion, moved to the front of the Ford 300 and had to hold off Jamie McMurray on several late restarts to lock up his second victory of the year.

Martin Truex Jr. clinched the Busch series title last week at Darlington Raceway, but didn't get to enjoy the official championship ceremony until after he finished eighth at Homestead.

He was presented with the trophy and celebrated with car owners Teresa Earnhardt and Dale Earnhardt Jr.

A series of cautions punched the field up a handful of times, giving McMurray a chance to get a jump on Harvick and pass him for the lead.

But he never could, and Harvick got a great start on the final restart with two laps to go and pulled away for the win.

"Our stuff has been off this year. We've had good cars, but we've been off," said Harvick, who won at Las Vegas in March. "It's good to be back in Victory Lane."

Harvick has struggled in both the Busch and Nextel Cup series this season, and hasn't

won a Cup race since August of 2003. He was also shut out of the 10-race championship hunt.

McMurray, on the other hand, has been on fire in both series. He won the past two races, and has already locked up 11th place in the Cup series and the \$1 million bonus that goes with it.

He said he had only one real opportunity to pass Harvick and go for his third consecutive Busch series win.

"With 20 laps to go, I was able to get up on Kevin and get him loose," Harvick said. "And he couldn't get into the corner like he needed to, and I really thought I had him passed. But I got in there too hard, and the front end started chattering, and I had to back off."

Rookie Kyle Busch was third, ending his season tied with Greg Biffle for the series rookie record of five wins in a season. He had hoped to give car owner Rick Hendrick a sixth victory, especially with Hendrick attending a race for the first time since the Oct. 24 plane crash that killed 10 family members and employees.

"Just to have Rick here ... he has a really strong heart and it shows the testament he has that he wants to be here with his teams," Busch said. "He had to set a date for when he came back to the track and I am really surprised it is this soon."

Reed Sorenson, an 18-year-old who will run the full Busch schedule next season, was fourth.

Defending champ UConn rolls in opener

The Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Emeka Okafor and Ben Gordon are gone, but Connecticut's latest inside-outside combination showed it can be just as potent.

Rashad Anderson scored 23 points, hitting 4 of 9 from 3-point range, and Josh Boone got all his 18 points from the paint in the Huskies' 90-68 win over Buffalo on Saturday night.

It was the season opener for both teams as the No. 8 Huskies began defense of their NCAA title, overpowering Buffalo early with strong post play and a crisp transition game.

The Huskies wasted little time putting this one away. Boone and Anderson combined for 11 points in UConn's opening 13-2 run.

"We really jumped into them, took away their dribble scores and offense that they run so well," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said. "Obviously, we did a wonderful job of that in the first half."

Buffalo, a preseason favorite in the Mid-American Conference, didn't make consecutive baskets until there were five minutes left in the first half. The Huskies led by as many as 24 and took a 47-24 lead at halftime, holding the Bulls to 25.8 percent shooting.

UConn outrebounded Buffalo 56-27, led by Boone's 11 boards. He and Charlie Villanueva each blocked four shots. The Huskies' frontcourt combined for 38 points and 30 rebounds.

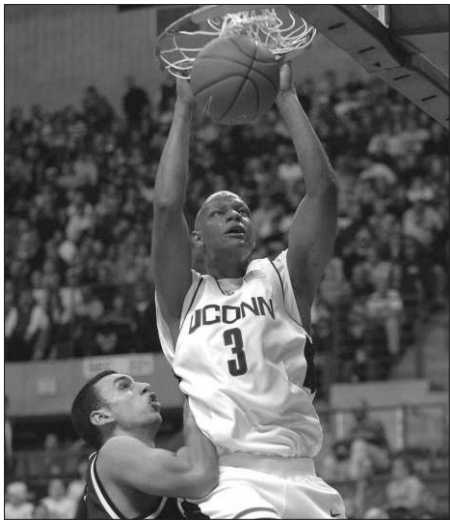
Turner Battle led the Bulls with 14 points and Roderick Middleton chipped in with 13.

Boone — a 6-foot-10 sophomore — also dazzled in transition.

Trailing on a long outlet pass from Marcus Williams to Rudy Gay, Boone fielded Gay's over-the-back pass in full stride and punctuated the play with a rim-rattling dunk midway through the first half that brought the crowd to its feet.

No. 9 Kentucky 77, Coppin St. 46: New guards Patrick Sparks and Rajon Rondo combined for 21 points and led a strong defensive effort for host Kentucky.

Chuck Hayes added 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Wildcats, who are 87-15 in



Connecticut's Charlie Villanueva (3) dunks over Buffalo's Yassin Idibhi during the first half of the Huskies' 90-68 win Saturday in Storrs, Conn.

home openers, including 26-3 in Rupp Arena.

Sparks scored nine of his 12 points in the first half, when Kentucky took a 40-18 lead. Sparks also added five rebounds and three assists.

Sparks and Rondo — one of four heralded Kentucky freshmen — keyed a defensive effort that forced 22 Coppin State turnovers. Rondo finished with nine points and five steals.

No. 11 Duke 88, Tennessee-Martin 46: In Durham, J.J. Redick and Daniel Ewing each had 20 points to help Duke win its season opener.

Sheldon Williams added 13 points and 15 rebounds, and Shavlik Randolph scored 11 for the Blue Devils, who broke open a fairly tight game at the half to open coach Mike Krzyzewski's 25th season in style.

With only eight recruited players — including freshmen David McClure and De-

Marcus Nelson — Duke was picked to finish fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference behind Wake Forest, North Carolina and Georgia Tech. They played down to those expectations for most of the first half, leading 39-25 after shooting only 32 percent — including 4-of-16 on 3-pointers.

No. 14 Louisville 89, BYU-Hawaii 79: Taguan Dean and Larry O'Banion each scored 18 points for Louisville, which came from behind on the road in preparation for next week's Maui Invitational.

The game also marked the return of Louisville coach Rick Pitino to Hawaii. Pitino began his coaching career at Hawaii as a graduate assistant in 1974-75 and was an assistant coach in 1975-76.

The Cardinals rallied from a 45-38 second-half deficit behind tough defense and the scoring of Dean, who had 11 of his 18 points in the final 20 minutes. Louisville forced 24 turnovers and scored 15 points off 12 turnovers in the second half.

Louisville faces Iowa in the first round of the tournament Monday at the Lahaina Civic Center.

No. 17 Pittsburgh 81, Howard 55: In Pittsburgh, Chevon Troutman scored 18 points and the Panthers showed off a new look offensively in their season opening victory.

Pittsburgh started three regulars from last season's 31-win team, but it was freshman Ronald Ramon who added a different twist to a team that relied on a physical defense while making made three successive trips to the NCAA round of 16. He quickly hit three 3-pointers against a pulled-back Howard defense to help the Panthers build a 40-15 halftime lead.

Ramon, the first freshman to start a Pitt opener since Ricardo Greer in 1997, was 4-of-6 as Pitt made 6 of 12 3-point attempts.

No. 21 Wisconsin 77, Penn 44: Mike Wilkinson scored all but two of his 19 points in the second half. Penn coach Ed Cooley had a memorable debut for host Wisconsin.

Butch, a 6-foot-11 redshirt freshman who spent last season bulking up, had 10 points and four rebounds. Wilkinson, the only returning starter for the Badgers, added 11 rebounds.

Tim Begley led the Quakers (1-2) with 19 points, eight boards and five assists.

Sweet night: Wright scores decision over Mosley to retain titles

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Shane Mosley made the rematch closer, while Winky Wright made sure the result was the same.

Wright used his right jab to pile up points early in the fight, then held on to win a majority decision by the closest of margins Saturday night to retain his WBA and WBC light-middleweight titles in a hard-fought bout.

The fight was strikingly similar to the first between the two in March, when the underdog Wright controlled the action from the outside and won a decision. In the rematch, though, Mosley landed well inside against the favored Wright and the fight was still in

doubt going into the final round. Wright won the final round on two of the three scorecards and the fight by a 115-113 margin on two scorecards. The third judge had it 114-114.

The Associated Press had Wright winning 116-112. "He was a great fighter. I caught him with more shots," Wright said. "He deserved the rematch, though. He came to fight."

The fight was so close that had Mosley won the last round on one other scorecard, it would have been a majority draw. Both fighters were clearly tired in the final round and they clinched on a number of occasions, then hugged each other as the bell sounded to end the fight.

Wright was dominating the early rounds but in the fifth, Mosley landed to the body. Wright put his hands down and Mosley hit him with a right that excited the

crowd. The two went back and forth, with Mosley landing well to the body and Wright jabbing him to the head.

The loss was the second straight setback for Mosley, who seemed destined to fight big money bouts after beating Oscar De La Hoya last year.

Mets, Benson agree to terms

NEW YORK — Kris Benson and the New York Mets completed more than three months of negotiations, agreeing Saturday to a \$22.5 million, three-year contract.

Benson's deal includes a \$2.5 million signing bonus and a \$7.5 million club option for 2008 with a \$500,000 buyout. If the option is exercised, the contract would be worth \$29.5 million over four seasons.

The deal is subject to Benson completing a physical, which is scheduled for New York on Monday.

New York would not confirm the agreement, only that it asked Benson to have a physical. Contract details were provided by a person with knowledge of the negotiations who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Benson was acquired by New York from Pittsburgh on July 30. He went 4-4 with a 4.50 ERA in 11 starts with the Mets, leaving his record at 12-12 with a 4.31 ERA.

Moses strikes gold in World Cup opener

DURBAN, South Africa — World record holder Ed Moses of the United States won his second event in as many days, capturing the 100-meter breaststroke

Sunday — the final day of the opening event of swimming's World Cup season.

Moses — who holds the world short-course records for the 100 and the 200 — won the 200 on Saturday.

In women's events, Slovakia's Martina Moravkova was a double winner on the final day. She took the 100 butterfly in 57.49 and returned to win the 100 individual medley, the final event of the meet, in 1 minute, 12.3 seconds.

In the women's 50 freestyle, 32-year-old Alison Sheppard dominated the younger Swedish duo of Anna-Karin Kammerling and Josefin Lillhage to win in 24.86.

The home fans were given plenty to cheer when Ryk Neethling held off the fast-finishing Dominik Meichtry of Switzerland and Scott Goldblatt of the United States to win the men's 200 freestyle.

Sports briefs

Guilt-free win: Oklahoma coasts by Baylor

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — No regrets for Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops this week, just the lopsided win the No. 2 Sooners needed to pad their BCS numbers.

Adrian Peterson ran for 240 yards, including three second-half touchdowns, and Jason White threw two TD passes in a 35-0 win Saturday against Baylor. Neither played the final 11 minutes.

A week ago, Stoops had his

starters playing the final minute, and bypassed a field goal chance on fourth down in a 30-3 win over Nebraska. He regretted that decision, and wasn't going to repeat it. "Anyone that doesn't see the dilemma we're in is not being totally fair. We're in a bad position right now," Stoops said. "I made the wrong choice [last week]. I wish I chose sportsmanship over BCS points."

The latest plays only proved Stoops' point.

Oklahoma was caught by Auburn in this week's AP Top 25. The Sooners remained second behind top-rated Southern California in the Bowl Championship Series standings, but their margin over Auburn was cut in half.

"We just know all we can do is go out and win games," said White, who was 19-for-32 for 194 yards. "The rest, we can't do anything about. We know if we stay undefeated, that's all we can do."

After a slow start Saturday, the Sooners (11-0, 8-0 Big 12) scored on four straight possessions. White threw a 10-yard touch-



Oklahoma's Adrian Peterson (28) loses his footing as he tries to evade Baylor defenders Maurice Lane (21) and Jonathan Golden during the first half of the Sooners' 35-0 win. Peterson rushed for 240 yards.

down pass to Travis Wilson just before halftime to make it 14-0, and Peterson had short TD runs on the first three drives of the second half.

Oklahoma has never lost in 14

games against Baylor (3-8, 1-7), the previous five coming with an average margin of 38 points.

Peterson, who has 32 carries, tied the NCAA record for most 100-yard games by a freshman

with his 10th. It came a week after he was held to 58 yards by Nebraska to snap his freshman record of nine straight 100-yard games.

Oklahoma, which completed its 19th undefeated regular season and third under Stoops, outgained Baylor 501-156 yards. The Sooners have won 23 straight regular-season games.

"It is difficult to enjoy being 11-0 the way the structure is right now," Stoops said.

The Sooners were also undefeated in the regular season last year at 12-0. They then lost to Kansas State in the Big 12 championship game and to LSU in the Sugar Bowl.

White has thrown 17 touchdown passes — and 183 passes — since his last interception six games ago.

Peterson, showing no ill effects from the separated left shoulder he suffered against Texas A&M two weeks ago, finished just short of his season high of 249 yards. He has 1,671 this season.

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Berlin's big plays fuel Miami romp

BY TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Knowing another loss would doom Miami's hopes of winning the Atlantic Coast Conference, Brock Berlin quickly entered the thick of the title chase. Berlin threw for a career-best 361 yards and four touchdowns in just over a half Saturday, leading No. 12 Miami past Wake Forest 52-7.

He set the tone for Miami's big-play bonanza by hitting Sinorice Moss with a 42-yard pass on the game's first play, enhanced his chances of winning the ACC player of the year honors and — most importantly — helped Miami (8-2, 5-2) set up a Dec. 4 showdown with Virginia Tech that may decide the conference title.

"We came in this week knowing that we were going to be able to hit some big plays if we ran good routes and threw it well," said Berlin, whose previous career high was a 352-yard yard last season against West Virginia. "Sure enough, we made it happen."

Berlin completed 13 of 19 passes and threw touchdowns to four different receivers. In his last seven games, Berlin has completed 85.9 percent of his passes for 1,894 yards with 19 touchdowns and only two interceptions — none in his last 153 attempts.

"He kept us off balance," Wake cornerback Marcus McGruke said. "They ran great routes. He threw the ball on the money and they made big plays."

Berlin left with 8:50 remaining in the third quarter, after hitting Ryan Moore with a 10-yard touchdown pass that put Miami ahead 42-7.

Miami's Frank Gore rushed for 83 yards and a touchdown, and Rashawn Jones recovered a blocked punt in the end zone for another Hurricanes' score.

"We've been down a little bit, but we're not out," Miami coach Larry Coker said. "They fought their way back and we're still in a good situation. ... We're down to a one-game season now."

Chris Barclay had a 14-yard touchdown run late in the first half for the Demon Deacons (4-6, 1-6), who hadn't lost a game by more than seven points all season. Barclay — who entered the game as the ACC's leading rusher — finished with 57 yards on 18 carries for Wake Forest, which was knocked from bowl contention.

The win kept alive Miami's hopes of making a fifth straight appearance in the Bowl Championship Series. To claim the ACC crown, the Hurricanes need to beat Virginia Tech, get some help to win potential three-way tiebreakers with Florida State and either Virginia or the Hokies.

B.C. stays on BCS track by topping Temple

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Boston College is ready to leave the Big East as champions.

L.V. Whitworth ran for 151 yards and two touchdowns, and Boston College took another step closer to its first BCS berth with a 34-17 win Saturday in Temple's final game before being booted from the Big East.

"We have our fate in our hands," BC coach Tom O'Brien said.

The 19th-ranked Eagles (8-2, 4-1) pulled into a first-place tie with No. 21 West Virginia (8-2, 4-1), which ends its season Thursday against Pittsburgh. Even if the Mountaineers win that game, Boston College would earn the automatic Bowl Championship Series slot and its first Big East championship if it can beat Syracuse.

The Eagles, who are heading to the Atlantic Coast Conference next season, would receive the bid because they beat West Virginia last week.

Boston College, however, will play the Orange without quarterback Paul Peterson, who left late in the first half with a broken right hand. Peterson could return for a bowl game.

Freshman Matt Ryan ably filled in, going 8-for-15 and throwing a 32-yard touchdown pass to Larry Lester in the third quarter. While the Eagles are looking to end their time in the Big East with a championship, Temple left the conference with a 3-1 record.

The Owls (2-9, 1-5) are getting kicked out of the Big East for failing to meet minimum requirements for membership — lowly in attendance, facilities and fielding a competitive team.

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Badgers suspended in Big Ten title quest

Iowa grabs share of championship

By JEFF POTRYKUS

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

IOWA CITY, Iowa — In their minds, they could see Pasadena as they took the field Saturday afternoon at Kinnick Stadium.

They could smell the roses. University of Wisconsin coach Barry Alvarez had informed his players that Ohio State had just finished off first-place Michigan, setting the stage for the Badgers to steal a share of the Big Ten Conference title and return to the Rose Bowl.

All they needed was a victory over Iowa.

Instead of blossoming, the ninth-ranked Badgers wilted, like a beautiful rose that succumbs to the first hard frost.

The hard reality for UW was this: Led by a remarkable defense and an opportunistic offense, the 17th-ranked Hawkeyes manhandled the Badgers in every facet imaginable, 30-7, to take the share of the Big Ten title the Badgers so desperately wanted.

"There's really nothing that I can say," junior wide receiver Brandon Williams said. "We lost the game. We lost the Rose Bowl. We lost the co-champs. A lot of stuff we lost today."

Although several bowl bids won't be finalized until Tuesday, UW (9-2, 6-2 Big Ten) likely is bound for the Outback Bowl on Jan. 1 in Tampa, Fla., thanks to its third-place finish.

The Badgers should face a quality opponent from the Southeastern Conference. Yet from now until Jan. 1 they'll probably reflect how they threw away a Big Ten title and a trip to Pasadena with consecutive losses to Michigan State and Iowa.

Meanwhile, Michigan (9-2, 7-1) is set to play in the Rose Bowl.

Iowa (9-2, 7-1), which lost to Michigan earlier this season, should receive a bid to the Capital One Bowl on Jan. 1 in Orlando, Fla.

"A nine-win season is a pretty good year," UW coach Barry Alvarez said. "We were sitting there with other opportunities, so it's depressing you don't take advantage of those."

"Yet when you sit back and take a look at it, this team accomplished a lot this year."

Yet on the final day of the regu-



Wisconsin's Booker Stanley and the rest of the Badgers were suspended by Iowa in their pursuit of a bid to the Rose Bowl.

lar season, UW booted the opportunity to return to Pasadena for the first time since the 1999 season with its second consecutive forgettable performance.

With tailback Anthony Davis sidelined because of a quadriceps injury that has worsened in the past few weeks, the UW offense was severely limited against an opponent that entered the day 13th nationally in total defense (299.4 yards per game).

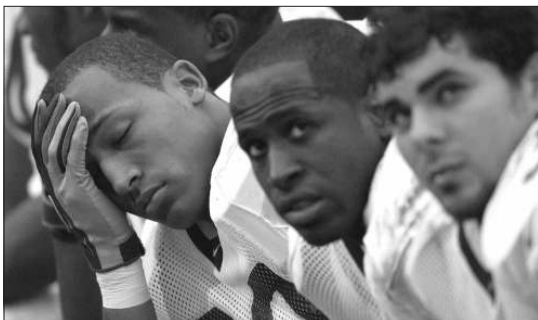
With fullback Matt Bernstein (11 carries, 28 yards) getting the start at tailback and Booker Stanley (10 carries, 12 yards and one touchdown) filling in at times, UW managed a pitiful season-long of 41 yards in 30 attempts.

"We thought we'd be able to run the ball more effectively than we did today," UW offensive coordinator Brian White said. "But we didn't have any illusions we were going to run for 300 yards against them."

The tone was set early. Twice in the opening quarter free safety Jim Leonhard intercepted passes, giving UW the ball at the Hawkeyes' 32 and 35, respectively.

Both times, UW's offense failed to pick up a first down or points. "I knew that we didn't take advantage of two opportunities," White said, "and I'm smart enough to know that that's not good in a big game like this."

"You need to be opportunistic." Iowa was the opportunistic team Saturday.



Michigan cornerback Leon Hall, left, and the rest of his teammates still have their eyes on Pasadena. Despite its 37-21 loss to Ohio State on Saturday in Columbus, Ohio, the Wolverines are headed to the Rose Bowl.

AP photos

In loss to Buckeyes, Wolverines come up smelling like Rose (Bowl)

By DAVID WHARTON

Los Angeles Times

COLUMBUS, Ohio — This was not the way Michigan had hoped to make it back to the Rose Bowl.

Not by finishing the regular season with a stunning 37-21 loss to rival Ohio State.

Not by having to wait three more hours until Iowa defeated Wisconsin, thereby sending the Wolverines to Pasadena via the backdoor.

When their Rose Bowl bid was finally assured Saturday night, the Michigan players were on a bus, headed home along U.S. 23.

If there was any celebration, it was probably muted.

"We're just thinking about this game," quarterback Chad Henne said moments after the Ohio State defeat. "A lot of guys are down."

It wasn't supposed to happen this way. Michigan was on an eight-game roll and undefeated in Big Ten Conference play. Rose Bowl officials showed up at Ohio

Stadium with enough roses for every player in maize and blue.

Ohio State, meanwhile, came into the game struggling at 6-4 and suffering even more off the field.

Tailback Lydell Ross was briefly suspended after an incident at a strip club. Then, in a magazine article, former star Maurice Claret accused Coach Jim Tressell of helping provide improper benefits two seasons ago.

So, even with a sold-out crowd of 105,456 awash in red, Saturday's game had all the looks of a Michigan coronation.

And it started that way, the seventh-ranked Wolverines building a 14-7 lead by way of their two heralded freshmen, Henne and tailback Mike Hart.

"We had a chance to seize control of the game," Coach Lloyd Carr said.

But there was a bad portent in the air for Michigan on this cool, cloudy afternoon. The Wolverines were getting beat at the line of scrimmage and, with the de-

fense unable to penetrate, Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith found his rhythm.

Given room to maneuver, Smith completed several long passes and scrambled for first downs, guiding his team on a game-tying, 99-yard touchdown drive at the start of the second quarter.

By halftime, Ohio State led, 20-14, and things would only get worse for Michigan. Hart, who finished with 18 carries for a sparse 61 yards, could not find any holes and Henne, unlike his counterpart, was under heavy pressure.

It would be another freshman — this one playing for Ohio State — who broke the game open in the third quarter.

Finding a punt deep in his own territory, Ted Ginn Jr. twisted out of two tackles and sprinted to an 82-yard touchdown return that made the score 27-14.

Carr and his players later called the play a backbreaker. Michigan never really threatened after that.

Fiesta: Utah expected to break into BCS

FIESTA, FROM BACK PAGE

Nothing in the BCS will be official until all games are played and the final BCS standings are released on Dec. 5.

The Utes started the day at No. 6 in the BCS and basically became a lock to stay there after No. 7 Michigan, the only team with a chance of knocking Utah out, lost to Ohio State.

If California beats Southern Mississippi on Dec. 4, the Golden Bears probably will clinch the other BCS at-large berth and play in the Rose Bowl while Utah is likely bound for

Tempe, Ariz. — although the Sugar Bowl could take Utah in certain scenarios.

Fiesta Bowl officials have been scouting Utah all season knowing there was a chance the Utes would drop into their game.

Other "coalition" teams have made runs at the BCS in the last six years but fallen short — which prompted protests from non-BCS conferences and the threat of litigation.

Tulane finished undefeated in 1998 but finished only 10th in the BCS standings. Marshall finished 12th in 1999.

John Junker, the Fiesta Bowl's executive director, said Utah was "the most credible team to come out of that group."

Utah's offense proved again why it is neither BCS nor non-BCS but, rather, just plain potent. Dating to last year's Liberty Bowl, Utah has won 12 consecutive games by 10 points or more.

Smith, Utah's senior quarterback and a Heisman Trophy candidate, did not have his best game Saturday, completing 16 of 24 passes with one touchdown and two interceptions.

But his "un-Alex-like" effort, according to Meyer, was lost in the euphoria of Utah's concluding its best regular season since the 1941 team finished 6-0-2.



Utah head coach Urban Meyer is carried by fans after defeating BYU in Salt Lake City.

No. 2 Tigers turn Tide in second half

Auburn caps perfect regular season with Iron Bowl triumph

BY JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Jason Campbell looked every bit the Heisman Trophy contender and No. 2 Auburn certainly played like a national championship contender — at least in the second half.

The Tigers' 21-13 victory over Alabama wound up as a survival contest instead of a hoped-for statement game, and left coach Tommy Tuberville lobbying for his team.

"This is the Iron Bowl and that's what it should be like," Tuberville said. "People will say, 'They struggled,' and most people who vote haven't been at the game before."

Still, the question is will an impressive first 30 minutes be enough to cancel out a 6-0 half-time deficit and lackluster start in the minds of poll voters. The Tigers (11-0, 8-0 Southeastern Conference) were tied for No. 2 with Oklahoma in the AP Top 25, but third in the Bowl Championship Series standings behind second-place Oklahoma, which beat Baylor 35-0, and No. 1 Southern California.

Again, Tuberville had strong opinions on the matter: "We should be top one — but we'd take two."

Instead of toutting their dominance, the Auburn players pointed to their resilience — something they haven't needed much of this season.

"When we were down, no one panicked or pointed fingers," said tailback Carnell Williams, whose 44th touchdown run broke No. 4 Jackson's school record.

"We weren't concerned," said Campbell, who passed for most of his 224 yards after halftime and finished 18-for-24.

He then celebrated by waving an Auburn flag in front of the visiting fans section while several teammates stomped on a home-made Alabama banner. But their dream destination, the Orange Bowl, loomed over the celebration, with fans tossing about a dozen oranges onto the field.

Even the nation's top scoring defense ran into a little trouble late. Alabama (6-5, 3-3) drove 84 yards on 11 plays in the final minutes, scoring on Spencer Pennington's 18-yard pass to D.J. Hall with 1:26 left.



Auburn quarterback Jason Campbell, left, dives for a first down in front of Alabama's Justin Britt, in the third quarter. Auburn won 21-13.

Courtney Taylor recovered the outside kick for the Tigers, who ran out the clock.

They completed their first perfect regular season since 1993, when the team was on probation. Auburn will get one more chance to make an impression with poll

voters and computer programs against Tennessee in the SEC championship game on Dec. 4, but might need a loss from Oklahoma or USC to make the Orange Bowl.

The defense kept Auburn from serious trouble in the first half,

holding the league's No. 1 running team to 50 yards on 31 carries and allowing only three points out of two first-and-goal situations for the Tide. "This thing could have been over at halftime if the defense hadn't shown up," Tuberville said.

Kenneth Darby, the SEC's second-leading rusher, was hampered by a strained abdominal muscle and sprained ankle and had just 19 yards on 14 carries.

Alabama has lost three Iron Bowls for the first time since Auburn won four in a row from 1986-89.

The Tigers finally took charge of the game in the second half.

"They hadn't really been in that situation all season," Tide linebacker Cornelius Wortham said. They showed what type of team they were in the second half. They went into the half, took care of their Xs and Os and came out a different team."

Campbell hit Devin Aromashodu for a 51-yard pass down the left sidelines and Williams bounced outside for a 5-yard touchdown to cap a six-play, 80-yard drive to open the half.

Campbell hit Taylor for a 32-yard touchdown pass on third-and-17 on Auburn's next series to make it 14-6. Brown added a 23-yard TD plunge early in the fourth quarter.

Brown and Williams combined for just 96 rushing yards.

Clemson tops rival South Carolina in brawl-marred contest

The Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Lou Holtz's final regular-season game for South Carolina was one he'll probably want to forget.

Reggie Merriweather had three touchdowns and a career-high 125 yards to lead Clemson to a 29-7 victory Saturday over the Gamecocks in a game marred by a four-quarter brawl between the teams.

The 67-year-old Holtz told his team Thursday he'd retire after this season, reportedly clearing the way for Steve Spurrier to take over in 2005. The official announcement about Holtz is expected Monday.

"That's like going from J-Lo to Halle Berry," South Carolina tackle Na'Shan Goddard said. "We're getting a real good dude."

Emotions on both sides spun out of control late in the fourth quarter with a sideswiping fight that delayed the game for about 10 minutes before coaches, police and security officers got things under control.

Holtz and Clemson coach Tommy Bowden both said they would look at tapes of the fight and take possible action. Clemson athletic director Terry Don Phillips said the ACC would also review the fight to see if penalties had to be handed out.

Penn State 37, Michigan State 13: In State College, Pa., Joe Pa-



Local police push back Clemson and South Carolina players during a four-quarter brawl Saturday at Memorial Stadium in Clemson, S.C. Clemson defeated South Carolina 29-7.

terned ended his 39th season at Penn State as a winner.

The Nittany Lions scored four third-quarter touchdowns in a 37-13 win Saturday over Michigan State, and students who booed the Nittany Lions during three previous home losses chanted "Joe Paterno" and "Joe Pa, Joe Pa" as the game wound down.

There have been calls for his 77-year-old coach to step down, though Paterno has given no public indication he is considering such a move.

Tamba Hali and Paul Posuszny had interceptions and Donnie Johnson blocked a punt for Penn State (4-7, 2-6 Big Ten), which wrapped up its fourth loss-

ing season in five years. The loss eliminated Michigan State (5-6, 4-4) from bowl consideration.

North Carolina 40, Duke 17: In Durham, N.C., Chad Scott rushed for 144 yards and scored two touchdowns to help North Carolina become bowl eligible for the first time in three years.

Ronnie McGill also ran for a TD and Darian Durant threw for another score for the Tar Heels (6-5, 5-3 Atlantic Coast Conference), who finished the regular season with their first two-game winning streak since 2001.

UConn 29, Buffalo 0: In East Hartford, Conn., Cornell Brockington rushed for 136 yards and two touchdowns, assuring the Huskies of a winning record and

making them eligible for a bowl bid.

Senior Dan Orlovsky, in his final game at home, threw for 283 yards and a touchdown. His final play before being pulled from the game was a 33-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Brandon McLean.

Northwestern 28, Illinois 21 (OT): In Evanston, Ill., Brett Basanez connected with Jonathan Fields on a 7-yard scoring pass in overtime, sending Illinois coach Ron Turner away with a loss in what might have been his last game.

It was the fourth overtime game this year for the Wildcats, an NCAA Division I record.

Northwestern (6-5, 5-3 Big

Ten) also beat Ohio State and Indiana in overtime, and lost to TCU.

Iowa State 37, Kansas State 23: At Manhattan, Kan., Bret Meyer threw for one touchdown and ran for another, and Iowa State scored three TDs in the final 3½ minutes to stay in control of the Big 12 North.

Stevie Hicks ran for a career-high 156 yards and scored the go-ahead touchdown for Iowa State, which won its fourth straight game.

The Cyclones (6-4, 4-3) will win their first division title if they can beat Missouri next week in their regular-season finale.

Hawaii 52, Idaho 21: At Honolulu, Timmy Chang threw for 376 yards and a career-high six touchdowns, including four to Jason Unkrich, as Hawaii kept its bowl hopes alive by defeating Idaho 52-21 Saturday night.

Rivers caught all four of his touchdowns in the last half and finished with nine receptions for 167 yards for the Warriors (5-5).

San Diego State 21, UNLV 3: At San Diego, the Aztecs beat UNLV in coach John Robinson's final game after 27 seasons as a head coach in the NCAA and the NFL.

Robinson's UNLV team finished the season with five straight losses and a 2-9 record overall.

The 69-year-old coach announced his retirement on Sept. 26 citing family and health issues. In Robinson's 12 years during two stints coaching USC, Robinson posted a 104-35-4 record, winning the national championship in 1978, just three years after taking over for his mentor John McKay.

SPORTS



Magic hold off
short-handed
Pacers, Page 26

Major bowl busters

Non-BCS
team Utah
likely to get
Fiesta invite

BY CHRIS DUFRESNE
Los Angeles Times

SALT LAKE CITY — The day started with snowflakes dropping from the sky and ended with flying tortillas.

Only Utah could have made that happen.

Six years after the Bowl Championship Series was created, No. 5 Utah almost certainly became the first team from a non-BCS conference to earn a major-bowl bid Saturday night when it defeated Brigham Young, 52-21, before a crowd of 45,326 at Rice-Eccles Stadium.

Utah improved to 11-0 with the historic victory and is likely headed to Jan. 1 Fiesta Bowl against an opponent yet to be determined.

"We are gonna get our shot to go to the BCS and play with the big boys," Utah quarterback Alex Smith said.

Never mind that small details still have to be worked out and that the behind-the-scenes action Saturday night was almost as good as Utah's high-powered offense — especially when you tossed in the prospect of Utah Coach Urban Meyer possibly leaving the school to coach at Florida.

"We're going to talk about the University of Utah tonight," Meyer said.

There was never much doubt Utah would take care of on-field business against BYU (5-6), although it was only a 21-14 game at halftime.

The Utes, though, sealed their BCS coronation with a 31-point second-half outburst.

"We didn't let the BCS dictate how we played," senior safety Morgan Scalley said. "We did a good job living in a cave the last 11 weeks."

As the game drew to a close and fans started to surround the field with chants of "BCS! BCS!" power brokers in multicolored bowl jackets prowled in the background to settle the legal issues that could have crushed Utah's BCS dreams.

As Mountain West Conference champion, Utah is contractually bound to play in the Liberty Bowl.

The BCS, however, had independently crafted bylaws in which a non-BCS team would earn an automatic bid to a major bowl if it finished No. 6 or better in the BCS standings.



Utah quarterback Alex Smith (11) gains a yard for a first down on the keeper before being tackled by BYU linebacker Brady Poppinga (49) during the first quarter Saturday in Salt Lake City.

Up until game time, Liberty Bowl Executive Director Steve Ehrhart would not say whether he was going to release Utah to the BCS.

Afterward, though, Ehrhart capitulated and said he could not deny Utah its historic chance at a \$14-million BCS game.

In reality, given the frenzy, there was no way Ehrhart could have marched to the field and pointed to the fine print of his Lib-

erty Bowl contract with the Mountain West Conference.

In a postgame news conference, Ehrhart announced he was freeing Utah play in a BCS game even though he wasn't thrilled to do it.

"Believe me, it was close," Ehrhart said of his decision.

Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson said, "An agreement is in place, I don't want to get into the particulars."

A best-case scenario for the Liberty Bowl would be for Western Athletic Conference champion Boise State to finish unbeaten and replace Utah in an attractive matchup against No. 8 Louisville.

This would require the WAC's releasing Boise State and being financially compensated.

Thompson said the Mountain West's deal with the Liberty Bowl had nothing to do with Boise State.

SEE FIESTA ON PAGE 30



No. 2 Auburn
overcomes
lackluster start
in Iron Bowl

Page 31



Woods earns
first title since
February with
win in Japan

Page 24



Defending champ
UConn opens
season with
victory

Page 25